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PENSIONING OFF LANDLORDS.

Fixity of tenure, as explained by its Irish advocates, practically means that provision should be made for every landlord to retire upon a pension. At present it is presumed he does something for his living; thenceforth he will have nothing to do. In feudal times he had no lack of duties. He was responsible to the King for so many lances or so many bowmen for the defence of the realm; and he had besides to provide his quota of subsidies granted by Parliament. Failure by a tenant *in capite* was held to be presumptive proof of defection and disloyalty, which he found it hard enough to purge by obeisance, blandishments, and bribes; and sometimes all these did not avail. The consequence was that for the life of him he dare not neglect the oversight and care of his *feoff*; and the traditional necessity lingered long after military tenures were commuted into Crown rents, renewal fines, and contributions to public taxes of all sorts. For two centuries the concession of tenancy has been in England a matter of bargain for mutual benefit, mainly of a pecuniary nature, but not exclusively such. Not merely privileges of game, but a general right of disposition has been acknowledged in the proprietor of the soil by every man who sought his leave to till a portion of it, either as the heir of a deceased occupant, the assignee of an unexpired lease, or the purchaser of a goodwill. The understanding has been universal. A greedy or capricious man here and there has earned a bad name by his misuse of power as a landlord; but in the main, English landlords have not abused their authority. They have lived and have let others live; they have laid out their surplus rents in making their farms more and more attractive to occupiers; and, in spite of free trade in corn and high taxation, their rents are rising every day and are paid punctually and peaceably. What is the social and economical result? That in nine cases out of ten the proprietors of English land live on their land, spend their money where they live, and constitute an element of order, civilisation, and good manners in every locality. We have never been flatterers of the political sagacity of top boots; and we are not, any more than we ever were, disciples of the foxhound school of philosophy. But take it for all in all, the rural life of England is one of the best and soundest in Europe; and it is certainly an integral and essential portion of English national existence.

In Ireland a facsimile of what we have here has been hitherto presumed by law. The same enactments have been made regarding property, and the like forms of jurisprudence have been sanctioned for their enforcement. Many English proprietors are proprietors of estates in Ireland; and by intermarriage and change of residence the members of the territorial class in the two countries have been so intermingled that it is impossible to legislate for those who dwell on one side of the channel, without affecting the interests, and to a much greater extent affecting the sympathies, of those on the other. Of the eleven hundred individuals who compose the two Houses of Parliament, it is pro-

bable that one thousand are possessors of land; and a great many of them extensive owners. How can they be expected to regard a scheme which proposes to divest a third of their class of the rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by them without dispute or question? If landed proprietorship be in itself an evil, as the Communists say, the prejudices of class ought not of course to prevent us from discussing it, and ought not to dissuade us from seeking its abolition. But if this be not the issue which it is meant to raise, how can a Parliament of landlords be expected to deal so unequally with one portion of their class, as fixity of tenure would imply? And if a Legislative and Incorporate Union is to be maintained at all, with even a semblance of uniformity in reference to economic principles and social obligations, how can we contemplate as permanently possible the retention of the landed system as it exists in this country with the creation of a species of *ryot-war* in one-third of the realm, the proprietors there being pensioned off?

There is no mistake about the social and economic meaning of "fixity of tenure" in the shape it is now demanded. If the occupiers are to have a right to parcel out an estate amongst them, not in tenancy, but in the way of indefeasible inheritance; if the amount to be paid is a sum to be fixed by a public surveyor, and to be varied by his decision, or that of a legal tribunal, according to the changes made by each tenant in the condition of his holding irrespective of any will but his own, then it is clear that the rent owner will have been reduced to a rent charger: and that it will be a matter comparatively unimportant whether his annuity is collected every year from the real possessors of the soil, or collected from them, as Mr Mill proposes, by a Government officer as in India, and paid over by him to the ex-landlords. Ex-landlords they would henceforth be, and emigrants if not exiles. Their occupation would be gone. Every motive of pride, of pleasure, of enterprise, of philanthropy, would have ceased to exist, as far as such motives have any local root or hold. Humiliated as a class and as individuals in the eyes of those who had hitherto regarded them with deference, and for the most part not having the sympathetic ties of race and creed, they would naturally quit the scene of their extinguished importance and the sphere of their efforts to improve, for them no longer existent. They would get them out with their wives and their little ones, and all that they had; and they would fix their abode in pleasanter, more congenial, more refined, and more luxurious dwelling-places. Why should they remain when they have no longer any duties to do? And with them they would draw out of the country which repudiates their help and service, some eight millions or ten millions a year in addition to the rental already drawn by absentees. Would this be for the benefit of Ireland? Would this tend to increase employment or to raise wages? Would this serve the merchant in the city, the trader in the town, or the keeper of the village shop? Udalism as in Norway is intelligible, for there the occupier is the owner, and the whole of the fruits of the land are spent on the land; and if there be little refinement, litigation is unknown. The Metayer system of North Italy is intelligible; for there the landlord and tenant are in a sort of partnership. They divide the golden harvest, or together mourn its loss; what is good for the one is good for the other; and the eyes of both are daily set upon what is for mutual benefit. Our own English system differs utterly from both. It may have its faults; but at all events it drops fatness on the soil, and every year the face of the country is enriched and improved. But fixity of tenure in a country like Ireland, which would lead to the exportation of at least one-third of the realised produce in the shape of pensions to landlords, would tend only to the hopeless exhaustion of the country,

and beget a desire for further change obvious and inevitable. Ere many years elapsed fresh agitation would demand that the drain should be stopped. Life interests might be respected, but the pensions to ex-landlords would cease to be paid.

TRADE-UNIONISM IN DIPLOMACY.

Whenever it is said that the learned professions are governed in the spirit of Trade-unionism, like societies of printers or joiners, fine people who cannot argue mutter inarticulately something about that being "a very different thing," or they sulk into silence. But is it a very different thing; or is it not rather the self-same thing, only that the rules in the one case are inscribed in a russia-bound journal, and those of the other must sometimes be sought in a well-thumbed copy-book?

Practitioners of the art and mystery of diplomacy, though differing among themselves in theories and opinions, have long been agreed in seeking to have their calling recognised as a covenanted service. They may not be all alike able or active, discerning or dull, efficient or feeble. The work which some of them can do may be worth ten times as much as the work of others; but that is no reason why the pay of all in each class of negotiators should not be the same, or that promotion from class to class should not go by seniority. Young Mr Sharpenwit may be far better fitted to undertake the repair of a sudden breach or the construction of a flying bridge than Sir Finnikle Falter or Lord John Dunderhead: but that is no reason why he should be sent and they passed over. They went into the service when they were young, when nobody could tell whether they had any special capacity or not; and having been taught to rely upon it as a means of living, they have a right each to his turn of profit and pay. As for the question whether the work would thus be as quickly or well done, who can tell that? It might or it might not; history must decide when we are all dead and gone; but, in the meantime, promotion by seniority and rotation ought to be maintained as the only impartial rules for the government of the profession. Statesmen like Lord Palmerston, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord Russell could never be brought to limit their choice of diplomatic artificers in this way. When there was nothing particular to do, one trained hand would probably be as good as another, and then the jog-trot of promotion was allowed to proceed uninterrupted. Of late there has been so little to do worth naming, that it is, perhaps, no wonder the profession generally should have fallen into a deep sleep of forgetfulness as to what they were officially for. Practically there is little doubt that many attachés, secretaries of legation, plenipotentiaries in commission, and ambassadors that have been and may be again, sincerely entertain the belief that the estimates voted every year for the Foreign Department, like the estates of the Corporation of London, are a wise and mysterious provision of nature for their wholesome and pleasant support. But that the Foreign Secretary of State is morally answerable to the nation for his dispensation of patronage, as it is ridiculously termed, is either a notion that has never occurred to them, or is regarded by them as a sentimentalism underserving of serious thought. There is the service, and there they are waiting for their turn; they want it, though he may not want them, and that is all they have to say about the matter. But if, in the exercise of his discretion, he calls in one to his aid who is not one of them, there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth at the violation of rule, the breach of implied faith, and the discouragement which such a proceeding is said to offer to the service. Except as a monopoly, how can any profession flourish or even exist?

Mr Layard's appointment to Madrid has raised the usual buzz of complaint against what is called an

intrusion. Lord Clarendon having a special object in view and certain ground to get over, every inch of which he knows better perhaps than any Englishman alive, beckoned a fast-looking hansom instead of taking the first "growler" off the stand. And for this he is abused in every languid Legation, and every boudoir of Dowagerdom. Of course; that is natural; because diplomacy has been suffered too long to talk and think of itself as a close trade where apprenticeship is indispensable; and where the supposed knack attainable by practice is put above capability of discerning what sort of work needs to be done, the discovering the materials requisite for the purpose, and the inventing ways of using them not mentioned in the pattern-book. But Lord Clarendon, who was himself made Minister at Madrid without even as much previous acquaintance with diplomatic habits and usages as Mr. Layard, well knows the hollowness and unreality of such objections. Familiarity with forms, and acquaintance with etiquette, doubtless come handy to every man called on to represent the interests of his country at a foreign court. But some of the best negotiators that ever lived had all these fringes and buckles to buy after they were appointed; and if this was so when Benjamin Franklin was sent by the young Republic of America to make terms of help, recognition, and alliance with the French King, when diplomacy was all peruke and ruffles, what shall we say in these days of common sense and short coats at critical diplomatic conferences? It so happens that both abroad and at home the ex-member for Southwark has had many opportunities of learning the gipsy dialect and masonic pass-words of diplomacy, and becoming acquainted with the personal gossip of the service about men and things. Quick of apprehension and given to the culture of all those tastes that contribute to form so pleasant and useful a neutral ground for the study of national and individual character, it would be strange if Mr. Layard had not turned such advantages to account. He is a self-made man—a man of study, of enterprise, and of constructive aptitude. If he had not been a man of downright ability, self-reliance, and perseverance, how had he ever got thus far on the great highway, where rank and opulence fill so great a space, and jostle so rudely all that do not wear their liveries? Mr. Layard is not one of the men who has risen above his fellows by cringing or by climbing. If he has a fault, it is that he is too outspoken and uncompromising in the avowal of his likings and dislikings. But it is not this fault which weighs most heavily against him at the present hour among the envious and ill-natured. They could forgive Lord Ashburton being sent to Washington, on account of his great wealth and connection. They could forgive Lord Kimberley being sent to St. Petersburg, because he was a Peer; but they cannot endure Mr. Layard's being named to the Ministry at Madrid, though he was formerly attaché at Constantinople and has been for several years Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, because he is not one of the caste by birth or professional adoption. For our parts we are very glad to see Lord Clarendon break through the trammels of this species of Trade-unionism, and we wish Mr. Layard all success in his mission.

SHOW CHURCHES.

"It sounds quite tragical," says the merry Minna von Barnhelm, when her lover is recounting to her his misfortunes. There is something more than piteous in the manner which Canon Gregory assumed in rebuking his negligent choir. "It is really too bad," he exclaimed, echoing a belief that has already spread widely among the public. Indeed, there is a growing feeling among laymen that the condition of our churches generally is "really too bad;" and that some effective means should be taken to wake up the clerical custodians of such buildings. To the foreigner who visits England, it is sufficiently singular that we open the vast majority of our churches only on Sunday; but then he is not a reflective person, or he would perceive that, as we are a commercial people, it is impossible that we should allow the principles which we profess on Sunday to interfere with our conduct during the rest of the week. The new commandment is, "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thou canst to get the better of everybody around thee, and on the seventh shalt thou open thy churches, and become illogically Christian in tone and temper." That, however, being a national peculiarity, we need not try to alter or remove it. The condition of those churches which we do open during the week is sufficient to make one wish that all were closed. If we

could only forget for a moment that the demanding of money for the exhibition of a church was not a custom among us, we should be astonished at the anomaly of such a disgraceful proceeding. To charge for admission into the house of God, and turn a noble and stately religious edifice into a museum of antiquities, is surely the lowest depth at which a trading nation can possibly arrive. One instinctively looks abroad for a comparison with such a state of things, and there we find all sorts and conditions of churches thrown open from morning till night, with the poorest of the people walking out and in, or resting there for a few minutes in intervals of their daily toil. Perhaps, as in Notre Dame, you may have to pay a trifle if you wish to see certain things, or, as in the case of the Cologne Cathedral, an attendant may solicit contributions for the completion of the tower which rises an inch a year; but these are exceptional cases, and the rule is that you may walk about the church, or linger in its pews, without being spoken to by a human being. Even if the churches abroad were changed into exhibitions of Byzantine decoration, and half-a-dozen attendants were continually thrusting under your eyes the box which collects "Peter's pfennige," that would be no excuse for the existence of the abominable practice which prevails in England. That we should put St. Paul's on a level with the Polytechnic, and change the grand and impressive Abbey of Westminster, steeped in the memories of centuries, into a sort of marble Madame Tussaud's, is a barbarism to which only habit has accustomed us. But even granting that our finest religious buildings should be transformed into places of entertainment, we hold that they charge too much for the show. Hand-books to London ought to inform the visitor that, if he goes the round of St. Paul's, he will pay more than if he went into the pit of Drury Lane Theatre; and some men may think *Formosa* better worth the money. Nor should our country cousin go into Westminster Abbey without considering whether he would not be better pleased in Canterbury Hall, which is just over the bridge. If our national churches are to compete for popular patronage with the theatres and music-halls as places of entertainment, they ought to study the tendency of the times, and moderate their tariff.

We have already adverted to another point in the conduct of such buildings as are daily kept open for religious worship. We sympathise with Canon Gregory's indignation, which caused him to launch a philippic, on Tuesday morning last, against the members of the choir of St. Paul's. He said that "the morning services at the cathedral were becoming a public scandal, and the talk of the town from the general want of heart and dignity" which characterised them. He hinted that it was becoming a grave question as to whether these morning services should not be discontinued. He protested against the absence of the men who sing in the choir, two only of them having been present on the previous day, and three only on this occasion. One of these gentlemen remarked that the Dean and Chapter paid them such a small salary that they should starve if they did not look out for other work. This objection, however, is too absurdly illogical. If the chorister considers himself underpaid (and he may be, for all we know), let him throw up his engagement and seek another. If he, on the contrary, desires to take the Dean and Chapter's money, let him do the work which is its equivalent; but he cannot be allowed to take money from one master while working for or seeking work from another. And, if they do this work in the cathedral, a decent simulation of earnestness is demanded from them as part of it. They may not be moved by much devotional feeling in their singing; but they ought at least to conceal their indifference. We do not ask that a mute at a funeral should be really sorry for the death of the person he is helping to bury; but we do expect that he should refrain from laughing and joking during the ceremony. There are a sufficient number of arrangements in our cathedrals and churches calculated to scandalise any visitor; and we need not have this one added to the list. But the abolition of the disgraceful system of demanding money is the first reform wanted; and we shall be heartily glad to see some one arise to scourge the money-changers out of the temple.

TRADE WITH PORTUGAL AND SPAIN.

Meetings continue to be held in most of our great towns to complain of the want of reciprocity in our trade with other nations, and to express the con-

viction that the absence of it is a foremost cause of commercial depression and want of employment. We regard such a movement with regret rather than surprise. The logic is seldom clear of people who are in distress; but instead of railing at the exaggerations of hungry men, it were wiser, we think, to ask why the absence of mutuality in many important instances still exists, and why no active measures are taken for endeavouring to put an end to it? Spain and Portugal have any amount of wine to sell, as we have any amount of woollens, silks, and cottons, such as their people like to wear. Whose fault is it that we cannot exchange our surplus fabrics for their surplus produce, in greater quantities? The culture of more vineyards and the making of more cheap port and sherry would employ capital and labour in Andalusia and Estramadura that are now not employed at all. The Spanish and Portuguese Governments know this well; and they would to-morrow make commercial treaties with us, if our Government would reduce the duties imposed on the admission of their wines, to the same rate that is charged at our custom-houses on the wines of France. This would be free trade, as they unanswerably say; whereas the present system amounts to a differential duty in favour of their French rivals of no less than one hundred and fifty per cent. No wonder they refuse, in the face of this enormous and excessive difference made by our rulers against them, to lower their tariff on our textile fabrics. But if more of such fabrics were made in Spitalfields, Coventry, Macclesfield, and Manchester, capital and labour would be employed there which are now lying idle, and England would be all the richer. How comes it, then, that the reciprocal benefits are not secured by a simultaneous reduction of tariffs, as the Spaniards and Portuguese desire? It is no use delivering philosophic lectures upon the abstract theory of free trade, and trying to argue those whom we injure into doing what we want without making any reciprocal concession. There is something inconceivably shabby in the richer country trying to persuade its less opulent neighbours to abate their rate of fiscal charge on our productions, while we make no corresponding abatement in ours. Theoretically it may be true that the Spaniards and Portuguese would benefit themselves by admitting our manufactures to compete in their markets with those of France and Germany, even though we still clung to the superstition of an alcoholic test, and made that the excuse for the practical violation of the principles of free trade as applied to wine. But as we did not disdain to meet the views of imperial France ten years ago, when negotiating a commercial treaty on a basis of reciprocal benefits, it sounds like mere affectation to refuse to do the like when invited thereto by constitutional Portugal or revolutionised Spain.

Mr. Otway, in answer to a question put to him last Session, admitted that proposals had been renewed some months ago on behalf of the Peninsular Governments, having this object in view; but we have not since heard of any progress having been made in the affair. Sooner or later the thing, we suppose, will be done. But, if so, why not sooner instead of later? It will be poor consolation to those who are kept another year without work or wages, to learn, after they have been broken down into pauperism irredeemably, their households broken up, and their families reduced by want of adequate food and clothing to sickness and misery, that the truth has at last broken upon the minds of statesmen, and that tariffs have been reciprocally reduced. If it be right to have equal duties charged on French and Spanish produce, it ought to be done without further hesitation or delay, especially as we are in the position to obtain corresponding concessions for our depressed manufactures—nay, they are actually proffered us at the present hour.

The excuse made lies in the vague apprehension entertained by the Treasury that were the duty reduced from half-a-crown to one shilling a gallon, a low class of wines might be imported, containing such a portion of brandy as would repay the process of redistilling and rectifying it; and that spirits might thus be made fit for the market cheaper than from corn or sugar, after paying the excise duty. But the result of careful and comprehensive investigation into the subject leaves no doubt, on any impartial mind, that this fear is no more than an official will-o'-the-wisp. The question is one of figures, into which we shall take another opportunity of entering fully and in detail. Meanwhile, it may be enough for most readers, if we say that our opinion on this subject has not been formed lightly, and that it does not rest upon our own uncorroborated cal-

culations. The correspondence laid before Parliament, as having taken place on the subject between the Board of Trade and the Treasury, clearly shows that the former department is entirely sceptical as to the reasons set up by the latter for suspecting that any scheme of smuggling is contemplated, or that any would be possible under a system of free trade in wine. It is, in point of fact, demonstrable that it would not be worth while to import wine at 7l. or 8l. a butt for the purposes of distillation when molasses, rice, and other raw materials suitable for the purpose can be obtained at decidedly less cost.

OUR GREAT HOSPITALS.

St Bartholomew's boasts of being the largest as well as the oldest of the metropolitan hospitals. It was founded by Rayhere, minstrel of Henry the First, in connection with the King's foundation of the Church and Priory of the same name in the year 1123. He designed his charity "*ad omnes pauperes infirmos ad idem hospitale confluentes quosque de infirmitatibus suis convaluerint, etc.*" At the suppression of monasteries in 1537, the Priory and Hospital, with all their revenues, came into the possession of Henry VIII., who, in 1547, on the petition of Sir Richard Gresham, then Lord Mayor, refounded the institution by Royal Charter, and endowed it with the greater portion of its former revenues, being "moved thereto with great pity for and towards the relief and succour and help of the poor, aged sick, low and impotent people, lying and going about begging in the common streets of the city of London and the suburbs of the same, and infected with divers great and horrible sicknesses and diseases." At the granting of this charter the hospital contained 100 beds, and its medical staff consisted of one physician and three surgeons, the latter attending daily upon all the patients, and consulting with the physician in cases requiring medical advice.

The immediate superintendence for many years was committed to Thomas Vicary, Serjeant Surgeon to Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, and author of the 'Englishman's Treasure,' the first work in anatomy published in the English language. Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, was appointed physician to the hospital in 1609, and held the office thirty-four years. The rules which he laid down for the medical staff were considered so excellent that they were adhered to for nearly a century after his time.

The buildings escaped the great fire in 1666, but becoming dilapidated, they were taken down in 1730, and the great quadrangle rebuilt by Gibbs. The cost of these buildings was defrayed by public subscription, to which the munificent and celebrated Dr Radcliffe contributed largely, besides leaving 500l. a year for the improvement of the diet, and 100l. a year to buy linen. From that time the hospital has been increasing in wealth, and accumulating land and money, until it possesses a princely revenue; one which it is almost impossible to dispense in the way the benevolent founders originally contemplated.

It now contains 650 beds. Of these 227 are allotted to medical cases, 20 to the diseases of women, 322 to surgical cases, and 81 to syphilitic. Only a few children are annually admitted, and these are distributed through the general wards. It very rarely happens, however, that the whole of the beds are occupied; the average is about 550. Last year 128,000 in-door and out-door patients partook of the benefits of the charity. The medical and surgical staff consists of four physicians and four assistants, four surgeons and four assistants, some of whom are permitted to hold a plurality of appointments; as if the enormous amount of work of the hospital, its school of medicine and its courses of lectures, were not in itself sufficient to tax the powers of the strongest men in the profession. The staff proper—that is, the senior members of it—receive a certain annual grant for their services, St Bartholomew's being, with two other endowed institutions, the exception to the rule that obtains in all other hospitals, where the medical and surgical staff give their time and services gratuitously, and in some instances contribute annually to the maintenance of the charity.

The charity is supposed to be governed by a corporation. It has a Prince for its president, but we look in vain for any other sign of a corporate body than that, brought together by a donation of fifty pounds each, a number of City traders are enabled to participate from time to time in its government. It will scarcely surprise anyone to hear that such a corporate body is more at home in giving direc-

tions for a gilded ceiling of the fine old dining-hall than in listening to the complaints and suggestions of overworked doctors and nurses; or providing decent and proper sleeping rooms for the wretched beings from among whom so many are annually drafted into the wards. With a corporation so constituted, it is not surprising that the administration of the charity is very defective, and that it has been found next to impossible to remedy its glaring defects. Every improvement effected in the work of the charity has of late been brought about by outside pressure.

A few years ago a stir was made about the inconvenience and disorder of the overcrowded out-patients' department, and not long afterwards efforts were made to give increased accommodation; but as no one has ever taken the trouble to sift out the very large number of patients who should never be permitted to partake of charity, it has still gone on increasing, until at present the out-patients' department, at times, is a perfect chaos of confusion. Where every one is seen striving to be first, how can it be otherwise? It would be difficult to explain or excuse the admission of policemen and postmen to the charity, as both branches of the public service are well provided with experienced and skilful medical attendants. The Post-office and the police have divisional surgeons distributed throughout the town, and both services have a superintending head by no means ill-paid for their services. These ought to be sufficient in every case of illness; and, therefore, only in the direst cases of emergency should the Government permit its servants to filch from a public charity, and occupy the bed and board provided by the benevolent for a very different class of persons. Such an example is fraught with mischief of the gravest character, as it directly tends to open the doors of the hospital to a class of persons whose social position renders them unfit objects of a charity established to meet the wants of the very poor; and, therefore, it is found that a certain strata of society are rendered more reckless and unthrifty, and with the growing disposition to rely on others, a corresponding loss of self-respect is brought about.

It appears that there is no accurate record kept of the total daily attendances, as the new cases only are registered by the students, who, at times, are almost solely in charge of this department; but it is estimated that not less than a thousand patients frequently attend on Monday and Tuesday mornings. The duty of attending to surgical casualties devolves upon the house surgeons and dressers, or senior students of the hospital. The medical cases fare no better, and these young men dispense part of the medicines required by the patients from six different mixtures kept in large brown jugs standing ready on a table in the room. At times two female nurses are also in attendance to pour out the medicines, which are often taken on the spot. The more important prescriptions, however, are dispensed from the apothecaries' shop. There appears to be considerable niggardliness exercised with regard to the employment of drugs, as only recently one of the medical staff stated that a cheap and inefficient substitute was used in the place of sarsaparilla, which he would not employ in private practice. Dr Radcliffe's gift for the improvement of the diet seems also to have been forgotten, or else misapplied. It is by no means surprising that the patients grumble a good deal at these arrangements, as well as at the frequently overcrowded and unwholesome state of the waiting-room. As the *Lancet* Commissioner observes: "The consulting-rooms are too small, they are very insufficiently ventilated, and in summer the heat and unpleasant atmosphere are much complained of. Not only is the accommodation inadequate, but the staff is insufficient and most improperly overworked." The Commissioner saw 120 patients prescribed for and dismissed in an hour and ten minutes, or at the rate of thirty-five seconds each. Who shall say what mistakes were made? None can tell. This hospital opens its doors widely and freely; the patients are entitled to decent examination and reasonable care. But they are dismissed with a doubtful dose of physic, ordered almost at random, and poured out of a large brown jug, as if the main object were to get rid of a set of troublesome customers, rather than to cure their ailments. The whole proceeding is unworthy of the place. The practice is condemnatory of the management, the more so as it has been going on for years. The out-patients' department is defended on the grounds of the advantages it offers for teaching to the student; but can any knowledge of disease be acquired in the brief space of thirty-five seconds? Such a mode of dealing with sick people is inde-

fensible on any grounds; and the example will only tend to engender a carelessness on the part of the student, and an imperfect acquaintance with disease which will prove detrimental, or utterly valueless, when he is launched into practice in some country district. What can be learnt when patients are seen at a railroad speed, and where the modern appliances of the science of surgery are never made use of? What of the value of the stethoscope, the laryngoscope, the ophthalmoscope, and other aids to diagnosis? Assistant-physicians, who are expected to see and prescribe for thirty-five patients per hour, can neither use such instruments nor teach their use to the students. While manifest improvements have been introduced in other hospitals, St Bartholomew's has stood still; and opportunities are not even developed as they should be. The ophthalmic department is in the hands of a junior officer, who is forbidden to treat patients in the wards of the hospital or to receive them for operation. This duty devolves upon a senior, whose especial recommendation to perform the delicate operation for cataract is, perhaps, that he is consulting surgeon to an Orthopedic Institution, at a distant part of town. The consulting and overworked physician in charge of the obstetrical department made an application not long since for the aid of a qualified assistant, to help him discharge his onerous duties with more satisfaction to himself and the 884 poor women attended mostly in their own homes; but this was refused. It may well be asked, who is responsible for the mismanagement pointed out?

It is quite clear that none but a professional superintendent, such as the hospital had in Thomas Vicary of the Tudor time, should be at the head of the institution: no other than a thoroughly-informed and practical man can be expected to put the place in order and remedy existing evils. Not the least of these is the condition of the nurses' department, for who could credit that the nurses of St Bartholomew's Hospital are a poor set of underlings, such as can be found in no other place; that they are kept on duty on an average fourteen hours a day, and when permitted to take a few hours' sleep, are thrust into a hole under the staircase, "without either window or fireplace, dark and ill-ventilated, the result of which is a sickness and death-rate frightful to contemplate."

We commend this large hospital to the President of the Poor-Law Board, who appears to be exhausting his energies upon refractory guardians in a vain attempt to force upon them the necessity for giving 2,000 cubic feet of space to each sick pauper; while the treasurer of one of our largest and richest hospitals considers 350 cubic feet, under a staircase, sufficient for overworked nurses to recruit their wearied bodies in. Three-fifths of the nurses are annually warded, and three per cent. succumb to the hardships they have to endure.

If the authorities are unable to deal with abuses which might well be considered a reproach to a workhouse infirmary, the aid of Parliament must be invoked for the purpose. Fifty thousand a year can scarcely be left in the hands of any one man, or body of men, for the benefit and necessities of the institution which they profess to govern, without some ground for objection. There is a wide field and there are many temptations, and human nature can scarcely be expected always to keep in the narrow way. It is certain that a full inquiry into the uses and abuses of all our largely-endowed charities in London would be of infinite value. Such an inquiry would greatly tend to raise the character of our charitable institutions, and increase the confidence of the public in them.

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING FOR OUR PAUPER CHILDREN.

Sir,—There have lately appeared in the *Observer* three "communicated" articles on the above subject, in which a violent onslaught is made on the system of boarding out pauper children, and which are written with so authoritative an air, and in so dogmatic a spirit, as to give a very unfavourable impression of this system to such as may only now have heard of it, or whose knowledge of it is obtained from the articles in question. I shall, therefore, feel greatly obliged if you will give insertion in the columns of the *Examiner* to the following remarks, in which I trust to be able to show that there is a very different side to the question from that presented to our view by the writer in the *Observer*. The writer is evidently well up in the horrors of the old system of child farming and parish apprenticeship; but when he speaks of the

"boarding-out" system, as at present proposed, being a revival of that "exploded fallacy," it is clear, to use his own words, that "he does not know what he is talking about." To show how totally different the "boarding-out" system is from the old parish apprenticeship, I have only to quote the words of Mr Commissioner N. D. Hill, formerly Recorder of Birmingham, who writes: "Impressed with the miserable consequences flowing from the old plan of parish apprenticeship, which I am old enough to remember in vigorous action, I was at first somewhat unfavourably disposed towards the scheme of 'boarding-out'; but a little consideration and inquiry convinced me that the resemblance between the two systems is apparent only, and that the effects must be in diametric opposition to each other." And, again, Mr Hill says, "The two systems are alike only on the surface; in fact, they present important contrasts. First, the old system was one of slavery of a twofold nature, for not only were the children delivered over to the masters, but these were compelled to take the children. Under the new system there is, of course, perfect freedom on the part of the cottager, and practically on that of the child also. Secondly, under the old system there was no supervision worthy of the name; while efficient supervision, both constant and friendly, is an essential part of the new—the very key-stone without which the arch will fall to the ground." Mr Hill concludes by saying "that the adoption of the 'boarding-out' system will confer upon the guardians who support it, and through them to the community, a blessing too large for computation."

If any further evidence on this point is required, I would beg to refer to an article in *All the Year Round* for August 28th, 1869, entitled "Little Pauper Boarders," in which the subject is treated as only Mr C. Dickens could treat it, and the utter inappropriateness of the remark that "there is nothing new under the sun" as applied to the boarding-out system, and of the surprise that necessity should exist for reiterating the reasons which led to the abandonment of farming pauper children, is exposed; for, as Mr Dickens truly says, "Now-a-days there is an increased certainty of publicity, and the acts of Boards of Guardians and their subordinates are subjected to a careful and jealous scrutiny in all parts of the country. It is worth while to consider whether, out of the wreck of the system of parish apprenticeship and parish child farming, under which so many *Oliver Twists* and *Little Dicks* suffered miserably, some boarding-out system, at once simple and humane, cannot be adopted."

In fact, boarding out is as different from the old farming out as light is from darkness. What possible resemblance can there be between sending children to any one who would take them and there leaving them without any supervision, or packing them off by dozens as apprentices to one man, or leaving them by scores or hundreds to the tender mercies of such monsters as Drouet, at Tooting, where 150 children were carried off by cholera in a very short time, and boarding them out, one in each family, as in Ireland, or two or three in one house, as in Scotland, in homes that have been certified by personal inspection to contain the requisite accommodation, the attendance at school and church, or chapel, made obligatory, and the whole subjected to constant and careful supervision and control?

The Poor-Law Board have taken a much more liberal and enlightened view of the question, and so far from pooh-poohing it, have admitted it to be a matter of the most extreme importance. On the 15th of April, 1869, they wrote to the Chairman of the Boarding-Out Committee at Bath: "The Board are fully sensible of the many arguments which can be urged in favour of the plan, and, provided that they could be satisfied that a thorough system of efficient supervision and control would be established by the Guardians, and the most rigid inquiry instituted at short intervals into the treatment and education of the children, the Board have come to the conclusion that they ought not to discourage the Guardians from giving the plan a fair trial. In reply to the first Quarterly Report of the Bath Committee they wrote on the 3rd of July, 1869: "The Board have read the report with much interest, and fully appreciate the labour which they have evidently bestowed in working out a suitable scheme. The Board consider the regulations which the Committee have drawn up, as in the main satisfactory, but the success of the scheme must depend entirely upon the vigilance and strictness with which the rules laid down will be carried out."

Nothing can be fairer or more just than the above. The supporters of this system admit that efficient

supervision is its key-stone. They have no wish to try to bolster up a false cause; they invite inquiry, inspection, and scrutiny; they wish the scheme to stand or fall on its own merits; but they will oppose and expose all attempts to put it down by contempt and ridicule on the part of the prejudiced and prejudged, who will not condescend to make themselves personally acquainted with the objects or working of the system.

In Committee on the Metropolitan Poor Bill a clause was introduced by Mr Torrens, expressly enabling London Guardians to board out orphans and deserted children with the sanction of the Poor-Law Board; and its adoption was by the House of Commons voted unanimously.

On the 21st of October Mr Goschen informed a deputation from the St. Pancras Guardians that "he intended to send an inspector into Scotland to make inquiries how that system (boarding out) worked." But if these inquiries are satisfactory, as there is every reason to believe they will be, we shall be told by the writer in the *Observer* and other detractors that the superior intelligence of the Scotch peasantry, &c., &c., all tend to assist the experiment in a manner that it would be hopeless to expect in England. To prove this, a harrowing account is given of the state and condition of the labouring classes in London and in the country. Among the authorities quoted is the Rev. S. O. Edwards, visiting chaplain of the Hanwell District Schools, who writes, "The proposed plan cannot be seriously entertained for a moment," although he admits that he has not seen its practical working, but grounds his belief in its failure on the state of the parish of which he was incumbent for seventeen years, and in which there was a total want of even decent sleeping accommodation; "where parents and children, young married men and their wives, boys and girls, occupy the same bedroom;" and adds, "What beneficial results, moral or physical, could possibly be expected from placing pauper children in such a family circle, I am at a loss to conceive." I reply that we are equally at a loss to conceive, only that we should never think of placing children in a parish where, notwithstanding his seventeen years' ministry, such a state of things prevailed. But when it is attempted to generalise upon these cases as the universal or prevalent condition of country parishes, and to deduce from them that no respectable homes with decent and proper accommodation can be found for these orphans, we must meet it in the same way as Dr Lardner was met, when at the very time that he was going about the country lecturing on the utter impossibility of a steam-vessel carrying coals sufficient to enable her to cross the Atlantic, a steamer actually did cross it, thus giving an undeniable negative to the learned doctor's mathematical deductions. So whilst the impossibility of finding homes for these children is so emphatically insisted upon, proper homes have been found, and there are more of these homes ready to receive children than there are children to send to them. Neither is it the case "that the people who take them would assuredly only care to make a living out of their labour." In the Chorlton Union at Manchester, the children are boarded partly with the very best of the working classes, and partly with persons in a little higher station; but in all cases they form part of the family. "No difficulty is found about the allowance of 3s. a week, and it is not wished that anything should be made out of the children, except that they should be useful in the house just as their own children would have been." Thus writes a gentleman who has taken the lead in the adoption of the system at Manchester, and I can endorse his words as the result of our experience in Bath, and in other English Unions. In fact, this system is not only of the greatest benefit to the poor orphans, by restoring to them all the advantages of domestic training and affection, of which by the loss of their natural parents they have been deprived, or have never known; but it seems to meet a want that has evidently been felt by many respectable men and women of the working classes and cottagers, who either having no children of their own, or having lost their children by death, or absence on service, &c., are glad to have a child about the house, between whom and themselves a reciprocity of affection soon springs up. Such is the case, however the impossibility of its being so may be argued and theoretically proved. Instead of ascertaining the principles and working of the boarding-out system as now being adopted in England, and combating them, an attempt is made to prejudice the public and the Guardians of Unions, by calling it a revival of an "exploded fallacy;" by bringing forward facts which occurred many years ago, when

the state of society and of public opinion was very different from what it is now; and by extreme and, in a general sense, exaggerated statements of the condition and feelings of the working and labouring classes of England, which are a libel upon our country.

There are one or two points which still require to be briefly noticed: first, that the boarding-out system only affects to deal with orphans, and illegitimate children whose mothers are dead, and of whose fathers nothing is known, or who have been deserted for many years; secondly, that until now it has been confined in England to the provinces; and thirdly, that although everything in London is of so exceptional a character as to require to be exceptionally treated, yet, considering that it is in full and successful operation in Edinburgh, where the children are boarded in the country, and regularly visited and reported upon by a special inspector, and that the network of railways around London has now made communication within a circuit of twenty miles or more in all directions easy and expeditious, it need not be more difficult for a proper supervision to be obtained over children boarded out in the country round London.

The length of this letter precludes my discussing the advantages or demerits of the district school system; they will be found reviewed in your columns of the 3rd of July, 1869, to which I would beg to refer those who are interested in the question; but when the writer in the *Observer* says, "that a momentary glance will show that it is not intended to contrast this system (the boarding out) with the training of children in industrial (district) schools, and that it was to save these children from the terribly demoralising influence of contact with adult pauperism that they remove them into cottagers' families in the country," he forgets that the Scotch authorities could and would have established district schools, if they had thought them better adapted to the purpose. And when, in allusion to the expense of district schools, this writer deprecates "the narrow-minded Guardians," and calls upon society to "frown down those sordid spirits who begrudge those unfortunates the kind protecting care bestowed upon them," what will he say to the statements made by a Poor-Law official at Warwick, on the 16th ult., when Mr Peel, the district Inspector, said, "The fundamental principle of the Poor-Law was this, that they should not place the pauper in a better position than that of the independent labourer; if each child cost the Union 4s. 6d. per week, it would be difficult for the labourer with a large family to be content with the average wage, say 14s. per week." And, Mr Peel continued, "it must appear that in paying 4s. a week for the maintenance of each child, they were placing that child in a better position than that of the agricultural labourer, and acting in direct opposition to the fundamental principle of the Poor-Law." As 3s. 6d. per week was the sum really agreed to, exclusive of clothing, which must be equally provided whether the child be in the workhouse or out of it, for school fees and medical attendance, what would the Poor-Law official have said to 8s. 9d. per week, the sum now paid for each child at Hanwell? At all events, it is not only the "narrow-minded Guardians and sordid spirits whom society ought to frown down" who object to paying 8s. 9d. for the maintenance and education of a pauper child, when the same thing can be better done, inasmuch as the child would be reared in a natural instead of an artificial and mechanical manner, for less than half that sum.

On the 1st of July, 1868, there were upwards of 10,000 children under sixteen years of age in the metropolitan workhouses, and upwards of 50,000 in those of all the unions in England and Wales. The cost of maintaining and educating these children at district schools would, even at 20l. a head (the cost at Hanwell is 24l. 10s. 1d.), amount to 200,000l. a year for the metropolis, and 1,000,000l. a year, or nearly one-seventh of the total amount expended on the whole pauperism of the country, for England and Wales; and this only for the in-door children. The education of the out-door children, amounting to nearly 200,000l., would still have to be attended to. No wonder "the narrow-minded Guardians" hesitate to impose such a tax upon the poorer rate-payers.

Apologising for the length of this letter, which I have only to hope the importance of the subject may excuse,
I am, &c.,
Nov. 1, 1869. C. W. GRANT, Colonel R.E.

It is rumoured that M. Théophile Gautier has married Mlle Carlotta Grisi.

THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

The History of the Norman Conquest of England, its Causes and its Results. By Edward A. Freeman, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. Clarendon Press.

(Second Notice.)

The story of the dukedom is most interesting, and is told with all the writer's characteristic thoroughness. We derive a belief in a certain chivalrous grandeur of nature in William, from his conduct towards his faithless suzerain King Henry, a simple "sticking to his word," which makes it possible to believe that he may have conscientiously held Harold's extorted engagement to himself binding, though the moral obliquity of William's part in the latter transaction is extraordinary, and his warlike deeds are quite Titanic. The great confederacy against Normandy, the invasion, the Duke's plan of defence, the gallant strife, and splendid success, form a stirring story, and show us what was the preparatory training of William, and how terrible a foe vanquished Harold and his land. There is a foreshadowing of the scene which took place afterwards at Berkhamstead, in the sketch of the great Duke receiving the homage of the Count of Ponthien in one direction, and of the Lord of Mayenne in another. His greatest conquest, but one, was that of Le Mans and its county. Every scrap of evidence respecting the fatal visit of Harold is set before the reader, and the matter of the oath is fully gone into. The investigation is very curious and interesting, the examination and setting aside of legendary adjuncts is quite candid and convincing. This remains, that nothing in the whole story is absolutely certain, except that Harold made some engagement or other, which was capable of being construed as an admission of William's claim to the Crown, and which made his own later acceptance of the Crown capable of being represented as an act of perjury. The release of the Earl of the West Saxons from the hands of William's vassal, Guy de Ponthien, the princely conduct of William, the visit, which was but an honourable imprisonment; the promise of marriage to one of the Duke's daughters, a mere child, the march into Brittany, the siege of Dol, the trick by which Harold's oath was made so binding (and this is the story, not of an English apologist of Harold, but of a Norman admirer of William), the departure of the Earl, and the breach of both engagements, within an undefined but certainly short period, furnish another series of episodes in this teeming, brilliant, terrible, romantic history.

The receipt of the news of King Edward's death and of Harold's accession, by the Duke of Normandy, the immediate steps which he took to make his supposed wrong known, his appeal to the Normans, his appeal to Rome, the religious enthusiasm which he got up on this false basis, by which, as Mr Freeman points out, he forestalled the Crusades, bring the narrative once more into the stream of English history. The Norman episode is finely told, and with as much concentration and completeness as if there were to be nothing beyond, after the writer's fashion.

In the beginning of May 1066, the fatal year, while yet the comet was blazing, the first blow fell on King Harold, and it was his brother who dealt it. Tostig came from Normandy, with William's leave, and sailed to Wight; and thence to Sandwich, "doing all the harm he might." But Harold was making ready for the lesser and the greater foe. "No view of his position," says Mr Freeman, "can be more false than that which describes him as making light of the danger from Normandy, and as making no preparation for defence, except with a view to the expected invasion from Norway. The truth is exactly opposite. The King was busily engaged in preparations for the defence of his kingdom against the Norman, before there was any reason to look forward to any sort of danger from the Northman. He was already labouring by land and sea for the defence of his country. He was gathering such a land force and such a sea force as had never before been gathered in this land." Tostig did not await his brother's coming at Sandwich, but sailed away with a body of the sailors from that port, northwards, and entering the Humber, ravaged the coast of Lindsey. He was driven forth by Edwin and Morcar, and took refuge in Scotland, where Malcolm received him with hearty welcome, and he remained, biding his time to do more fell evil. And now Mr Freeman reaches a most fascinating, and as he avows a most difficult part of his story. He comes to that portion which forms the famous and

magnificent saga of Harold Hardrada. The tale is so complete, and is told with such thoroughly poetic spirit, that it goes against the grain to have to suggest that nearly every detail must be mythical. All that is not confirmed by English testimony is, to say the least, untrustworthy. A void is left which history cannot fill, and the historian may not fill it up from his imagination. Mr Freeman follows the story in the Saga, so far as it is recommended either by intrinsic probability, or by its conformity to our own annals, and points out those particulars in which authentic evidence shows that the details must be fabulous. On that famous Saga a whole system of imaginative literature has been constructed. We should never have entertained the Kingsleian notions about the Danes, and the Northmen generally; we should not have poetised Walthalla and hard-drinking vikings and violence, bad weather and piracy, but for the Saga, and the Saga remains. Nothing will make it less fascinating, and, if it be all untrue, nothing will ever make us entirely incredulous of it. How beautifully it is rendered here, how delicately it is sifted, how finely drawn is the figure of the harsh, hard-handed Harold, ungentled by his southern travel, the implacable enemy of Denmark, the ruthless ruler of his kingdom of Norway, who must have had strange visions of "the palms and temples of the South," and—these among the red-haired, blue-eyed rough soldiery—of his Varangian guard, it is needless to say. To the most difficult portion of his great undertaking the historian is fully equal. The story of the invasion of Harold Hardrada; of the force of the invading expedition for the last Scandinavian attack on England; the omens which preceded it; the arrival of Tostig, Malcolm, and a nameless Irish prince who joined them; the resistance of Scarborough and Holderness; their destruction; the sail up the Humber; the march on York; and the battle of Fulford,—all this is splendidly told, with a rapid swing of narrative, full of the excitement and pressing import of the great deeds and great issues of the time. And then comes the famous story of the hostages; the bringing of the news to Harold of England; the legend of his sickness and the vision of King Edward; his wonderful march, and the joyful reception both Danes and West Angles gave him at York. "Then," says Mr Freeman, "the King had other work before him than either to repose after that terrible march, or to enjoy the congratulations of a rescued people. He had to make sure that they were rescued. While an enemy was in the land Harold knew but one duty, to press on to the place where the enemy might be found. He had to save the land from further desolation; he had to smite before the expected hostages could be gathered together; he had to smite, once and for ever, the enemy who lay before him, that he might turn and meet the yet more fearful enemy to whom his southern shores lay open. He pressed on to the Norwegian camp, and he reaped the reward of his energy and his labours in the glorious fight of Stamfordbridge."

Mr Freeman decides against the Norwegian Saga as a record of that awful day, acknowledging that it is a glorious description conceived in the highest spirit of the warlike poetry of the North, but, when critically examined, hardly more worthy of belief than a battle-piece in the Iliad. This is hard. We should all like to believe in the tale as it was interpreted from the Saga, in the sudden panic of Tostig, in the fall of Hardrada's black horse, in the meeting of the two Kings, face to face, before the battle, and the greeting of Harold carried to his rebel brother; of the rallying nobleness of soul in Tostig, and the familiar saying of the gigantic Norwegian Harold, "The King of England is but a small man, but he stands well in his stirrups." But it is all mythical. Mr Freeman records in splendid language the magnificent legend of the great battle, and then says:—"The geography of the campaign is wholly misconceived in the Saga, and a story which represents horsemen as the chief strength of an English army in the eleventh century is clearly a tale of later date. Still, from such accounts as we have, combined with our knowledge of what an English army of that age really was, we can form a general idea of the day which beheld the last triumph of Harold, the son of Godwin, the last triumph of pure and unmixed Teutonic England." The victory was as decisive as any to be found in the whole history of human warfare. We linger over its grand details, for it was the last:

But the conqueror of Stamfordbridge, during the few days of life and kingship which still were his, had to show himself in a light yet nobler than that of a conqueror. That mild and conciliatory spirit, which was as marked in the character of

Harold as his valour and energy, was now, as ever, extended to enemies who could no longer resist. He had shown forbearance to domestic traitors; he had shown it to rebellious vassals; he had now to show it to men who had borne their share in an unprovoked invasion. The Norwegian ships still lay in the Ouse. After the utter defeat of the land army, naval operations were hardly needed against them; the fleet which had been arrayed at Tadcaster was not called into action, but the King of the English sent to Olaf and the Orkney Earls and offered them peace. "They came up to our King," seemingly to his court at York; they gave hostages, and swore oaths that they would for ever keep peace and friendship with this land. In four and twenty ships, the remnant of the host of Hardrada sailed away from the shores of Northumberland. Since the day of Stamfordbridge the kindred nations of Scandinavia, bound to us by so many ties, have never appeared on English ground in any guise but that of friends and deliverers.

This negotiation may have occupied the two or three days immediately following the battle. Urgently as Harold's presence was needed in the southern part of his kingdom, he could not refuse a few days for the needful rest of himself and his host. His presence too was needed for the settlement of the troubled affairs of Northumberland, and even for the mere celebration of his triumph. His victory was saddened by the fate of his brother; it was purchased by the blood of many of his valiant comrades; his mind must have been weighed down by the thoughts of the toils and dangers which were yet in store for him elsewhere. Still the victor could not shrink from the accustomed celebration of so great a victory. The King was at the banquet, when a messenger appeared, who had sped, with a pace fleetier even than that of his own march, from the distant coast of Sussex. One blow had been warded off, but another blow still more terrible had fallen. Three days after the fight of Stamfordbridge, William Duke of the Normans, once the peaceful guest of Edward, had once again, but in quite another guise, made good his landing on the shores of England.

Mr Freeman has now reached the central point of his history, the Norman invasion and the campaign of Hastings, and is thenceforth driven to rely chiefly on the Norman authorities, for the English writers seem to have shrunk from dwelling at length on this "great memory of sorrow," and the records are meagre. William of Poitiers, and the famous, much-disputed Bayeux Tapestry form his chief resources, after the period of negotiations closes, and the actual military preparations begin. A lengthy examination of the history of the Tapestry forms a portion of the Appendix, to whose value and interest it is important to draw the reader's attention. It is a chronicle within a chronicle, and one of the best specimens of Mr Freeman's analytical precision and skill. It is a relief to the emotion which the story of the great battle of Stamfordbridge inspires, that we are not hurried at once, as King Harold was hurried, to the desecrated shores of Sussex, but bidden to watch the building of William's fleet, the contributions of ships, the consecration of the great Abbey of the Holy Trinity at Caen, and the dedication of his eldest daughter, Cecily, then a child, to the religious life. In August, 1066, the Norman fleet sailed, but a month was lost, at the Droi, in waiting for the south wind; and Harold's great fleet and army, which had been guarding the coast, were disbanded, because of the failure of provisions, and the mass of the ships went back to London. On Wednesday, September 27, two days after Harold's victory at Stamfordbridge, the south wind blew, and the Norman fleet prepared to sail. Once more the Duke offered prayers and gifts at St Valery, and straight he sailed, his fleet being guided by the huge lantern blazing from his own ship Mora. On the 28th he landed at Pevensey, "on a spot so memorable in the earliest English history that to one who muses there, the landing even of William himself is of secondary interest." Here we have another breathing space while the author traces for us the early history of Anderida, whose English name is Pevensey. The details of the landing, the march to Hastings, the camping there, the systematic ravaging of the country, the unwise message of Robert the Staller, who sought to intimidate the Norman Duke by the tale of the English King's great victory, and the approach of the army flushed with triumph, the Duke's reply that he had come to win his crown, and his crown he would win at all hazards, the southern march of Harold, and the gathering of the shires to his standard, are all told in a style so masterly, that the reader wonders whether it can be surpassed when the great occasion comes; and the conquest has to be narrated. But it is surpassed. Growing grander with the growing greatness of his theme, the author enters into the troubled but steadfast mind of the great King, and tells of the counsel of his brother Gyrth, of his noble refusal to ravage the land, and putting thus a wilderness between himself and his rival, drive William to withdraw—of Harold's pleading before the Holy Rood at Waltham, in words so spirit-stirring that the ages roll away before their spell, and the strife, the ruin is as it were yesterday, the suspense is hardly outlived, the truth is hardly realised.

And what of the final chapters?—of the camp of the English King; of that wonderful array of battle, of which every detail is reproduced with exactness; of that splendid generalship which might well have commanded success had the orders given been implicitly obeyed; of the challenge of Harold by the Duke to single combat, as though the English crown might be staked on so false an issue; of the advance of the enemy, and the awful confrontation to the Standard of the Apostle, and the Standard of the Fighting Man? These things are worthily told. More cannot be said, nor, indeed, of the greatest achievement of the author,—the story of the Battle of the Standard. In the press and hurry, in the awful strife which lasted all the day, two pictures are brought before us, so full of terror, beauty, power, and romance, that they never can be forgotten: they are Mr Freeman's description of the group around the Standard, the English King, the Earls his brothers, and his Thegns, the hope and pride of England, who fought all day, and were all killed when the darkness came down upon that awful scene; and his description of the advance of William, armed with his terrible mace, in his glittering armour, and the relics upon which Harold had unwittingly sworn hanging round his neck. We know of no historical pictures put forth like these two; and for the account of the battle itself, its parallel must be sought in the famous story of that other day's long resistance by the English line at Waterloo, which had so different a termination.

The battle is over, Harold and his kinsmen are slain, the tent of the Conqueror is pitched where the Standard had stood, and William's banner shakes its folds out to the night, as he and his nobles and knights feast among the dead. We are given a brief glimpse of this horrible scene, and then bidden to follow the hero of England to his grave, under the heaped-up rocks upon the shore of Sussex, and the Conqueror to his successive triumphs and his throne in Westminster Abbey.

With the lurid and terrible scene of the Coronation, when fire raged outside the Minster, and the Conqueror was left alone in the Sanctuary with the monks and the bishops, this volume closes. Its predecessors have taken rank among the most valued and authentic books in English literature; for it there is no higher praise than to acknowledge that it surpasses them in style, in due proportion to the superior grandeur of its material: for its promised successors we anticipate a like perfection and an equal welcome.

The Remarkable Life, Adventures, and Discoveries of Sebastian Cabot. By J. F. Nicholls, City Librarian, Bristol. Sampson Low and Co.

Mr Nicholls very appropriately undertakes the biography of the great Bristol navigator who discovered and colonised America, and founded the maritime supremacy of England. Certainly Hakluyt's account of Cabot's expeditions is somewhat contradictory and confusing, and the writer of the present narrative endeavours to define more clearly the separate voyages, as well as the object and results of each. He considers, too, that the recent discovery in the 'Bibliothèque Imperial' of a map by Cabot, dated 1544, gives a key to the enigma; and this additional evidence has inspired him with "a desire to clear the character of a fellow-citizen, and to place him in his proper position before the world." In a modest Preface, the author acknowledges his obligations to Biddle's memoir, which appeared in 1831 and is full of historic research; and remarks that "had it been written in a conciser and clearer style, with less of petulance and hypercriticism, the probabilities are that this attempt would never have been made." We certainly cannot accuse Mr Nicholls of petulance: he writes in a calm, philosophical spirit, and sets before us not only the thoughtful youth and manhood of Sebastian Cabot, set in the frame of his great achievements, but gives us also a glimpse of the commercial state of Bristol and England in the fifteenth century. The volume, however, is faulty in arrangement. The biography is too much intermingled with events and personages with whom the hero has little or no connection; and at times it is very difficult to follow Cabot's personal history. A little more care and revision on the part of the author, and the alteration of some thirty pages into notes placed at the end of the volume, would have rendered his work much more readable and interesting.

About the year 1460 John Cabot, the father of Sebastian, a Venetian by birth, "came to London to follow the trade of merchandise," and soon after-

wards found his way to Bristol, then the second seaport in the kingdom. Here under the shadow of the church of St Mary Redcliffe the old Venetian settled and traded, having as his near neighbour the wealthy English merchant, William Canyege, immortalised by Chatterton in "The Brystowe Tragedy." And here, in the suburb of Cathay, some twelve or fifteen years later, was born Sebastian Cabot. Of his youth and early manhood we know little or nothing. It is, however, certain that from boyhood he was instructed in all branches of navigation, and that he soon became an expert and daring seaman. Returning from his early voyages to the place of his birth, he heard of the fame of Columbus, and, according to Stow, expressed his admiration of the discoveries of the great Genoese, and his "desire to attempt some notable thing." Mr Rawdon Brown, during his researches amongst the Venetian archives, found abundant proof that in an expedition under the auspices of Henry VII, in 1497, the American continent was taken possession of for England by "a Venetian, a very good mariner." Mr Nicholls seems to think that probabilities point rather to Sebastian Cabot than to John Cabot as the hero of this voyage. In the following year, however, Sebastian undertook a voyage during which he surveyed the Labrador coast, and discovered Hudson's Bay. He probably landed a party at Davis' Inlet for purposes of colonization, while he sailed on northwards. For a time he saw "the land in that region free from ice, which had been melted by the heat of the sun":

But there was little to cheer the men in a transitory gleam of sunshine: huge bergs towered over their heads, and swept about with erratic course, threatening to crush them; dark, beetling cliffs protruded their granite peaks above the melting snows, whilst others still slumbered, beneath their eternal, unsoftened, fleecy coverlid. Huge whales, unscared by their presence, tossed their unwieldy bulk high in the air, making the deep to churn and boil like a pot in their descent, or gambolled around, as though mistaking them for comrades. Monstrously large bears, Arctic wolves and foxes, the narwhal or horned whale, and the hideous-looking walrus, would probably cause their terror to culminate. The brilliant coruscations of the aurora would deter their advance, and perhaps give them the idea of a world on fire; whilst the mere fact "that there was no night there," a thing never hitherto realised, would naturally exercise a mysterious influence, and create an undefinable dread in their minds. It is really not wonderful that they turned and retreated. Coming back to the place where he had left the colonists, he found them disheartened; perhaps, as Thetvet says, dead, many of them: for even if the settlement was further south, and perchance on the island of Newfoundland, a set of thriftless jail-birds would have hard times to settle down and make themselves comfortable where nothing could be got but by dint of hard work, and where every Jack was as good as his master, away from all control or law. Re-embarking the remainder, he sailed south, past the shores of sunny Virginia; but no grassy slopes or verdant plains would tempt the wretched fellows again to land; safe on board, they would trust the treacherous shore no more; and we may think it a special Providence that brought Cabot home from a cruise of over 2,000 miles on the unknown American coast, with such a crew, and a cargo consisting mainly of convicts. Remembering the custom of hiring the mariners by the voyage, it is no wonder that we are told that they mutinied; and provisions running short when they reached Florida, constrained him to come home, baffled, but not conquered.

In 1517 we find Sebastian Cabot starting on a voyage with a squadron fitted out by Henry VIII, the object being to reach India through Hudson's Bay, and thus realise the mariner's dream of the north-west passage. This expedition seems to have miscarried through the cowardice or incompetency of Admiral Pert, "whose faint heart," as Eden remarks, "was the cause that voyage took none effect." But, though baffled in his main object, Cabot's devotion to science made even this unfortunate venture a success. He devoted his leisure to studying the variation of the compass, to investigating plans for the accurate determination of the longitude, and mapping the inhospitable shores of Hudson's Bay. In 1518, Charles V. of Spain appointed Cabot his pilot-major, though he did not leave England and enter on his new duties until 1520. Four years later we find him president of a conference of geographers, summoned to discuss the possibility of a north-west passage; and in the autumn he was appointed by the Emperor to command a squadron destined to sail through the Straits of Magellan, and explore the western shores of the American continent. Cabot, however, seems to have been contented with exploring the Brazils, and sailing up the La Plata and Paraguay. In these regions he remained for five years, erecting forts, administering justice, and reducing the surrounding nations to obedience to the Emperor. But not content with this, his ever active intellect led him to make experiments on the fertility of the soil, and to classify the vegetable and animal productions of the country. At length he returned to Spain, and soon after a sort of home-sickness

brought him back to his native city of Bristol. The Emperor immediately ordered Cabot to return to Spain without delay, and on his refusal struck off his pension. However, Edward VI. appointed the great navigator superintendent of the naval affairs of the kingdom, and granted him an annual salary of 250 marks.

The boy-king had himself a great taste for maritime affairs; when quite a child he knew all the harbours and ports in France and Scotland, as well as those in his own dominions, how much water they had, and the way to get into them.

We have it on the testimony of the noble Venetian, Sanuto, that Cabot had explained to the king the whole subject of the variation of the needle, which Guido Gianeti, their mutual friend in London, informed Sanuto "That Sebastian Cabot was the first discoverer of this hid secret of nature; that he showed the extent of the variation, and also that it was different in different places." Gianeti resided near to Cabot, and from him and others Sanuto learned that Cabot was held in the highest esteem. Sanuto had constructed at Venice an instrument for measuring the longitude; hence it became a matter of great importance to him to ascertain a point of no variation. This, after Gianeti had left England, he got from Cabot through another friend, who also tells him he saw "a chart of navigation, executed by hand with the greatest care, and carefully compared with one made by Cabot himself, in which the position of this meridian was seen to be 110 miles west of Flores. Sanuto remarks that he had proofs of the accuracy of the report thus made; he refers repeatedly to the map, which appears to have been sent to him, and adverts to observations made by Cabot as to the variation of the compass at the Equator. Where can all these maps, &c. be? For, besides those which Worthington's shade must answer for, we have at least three copies traced—one each to Sanuto, Ortelius, and the Duke of Bedford, at Cheynies—to say nothing of the extract cut by Clement Adams in this very year, 1549. Where are they? and echo alone answers—where? What Cabot's theory of the variation was we are left to conjecture; this we know, that his Transatlantic voyages had led him to the scenes of its most marked, sudden, and striking aberrations. It matters not that in our day Sir James Ross has been able to reach the spot, and indicate the exact site, for the time being, of the magnetic pole, which spot is to the east of that mentioned by Cabot. It is ever oscillating, has no fixed resting-point; in the seventeenth century it was considerably to the east of the meridian of Greenwich; in 1660 it was coincident with it, or due north and south; in 1818 it had reached to twenty-four degrees thirty minutes west; and since then it has been slowly diminishing. In an edition of Ptolemy's 'Geographia,' published at Rome in 1508, there is a reference to the Terra Nova and the Baccalaos, Cabot's names for the new lands, and which must have been taken from his charts; on a map in this work is a spot pointed out, where it states, "Here the ship's compass loses its property." That Cabot's explanation to the king was more than a mere statement of isolated facts we gather from this: he represented the variation as differing in different places, as not absolutely regulated by distance from any particular meridian; that he could point to a spot of no variation; and that those whom he trained as seamen, as Chancellor and Stephen Burrough, were particularly attentive to this problem, noting it at one time, thrice within a short space; so that, if his theory had been at variance with facts, his successors would soon have found out the error and exposed it.

In his new capacity Cabot first set himself to break up the monopoly of trade which Antwerp and Hamburg at that time possessed, and was so successful that he was rewarded by the King with a present of 200*l*. Mr Nicholls, in his enthusiasm, designates him "the father of free trade." Cabot also introduced into England the plan of sheathing vessels with metal, and founded the trade with Russia. By command of the King he now organised expeditions to the Northern Seas and coasts of Guinea. But under the government of Queen Mary he no longer obtained that favour and protection which he had enjoyed under her predecessor. Soon after the visit of Philip of Spain to England in 1557, Cabot, now "weary and old with service," was compelled under pressure to resign his office and pension granted by Edward VI. After this event we lose sight of the intrepid old seaman until his faithful friend Richard Eden beckons us to his deathbed. The near approach of death only seemed to bring into stronger relief the ruling passion of his mind. "As the spirit struggled with the clay, he spoke flightily about a Divine revelation to him of a new and infallible method of finding the longitude, which he could not disclose to any mortal." Thus the old man passed away, dreaming of the miracles of science, and seeming to hear the roar of the mighty waves of those mysterious Northern seas on which he had spent so many years of his early manhood. We know neither the exact date of his death nor the place of his burial, and "he who gave to England a continent, and to Spain an empire, lies in some unknown tomb." The summary of his labours, and estimate of his character, we leave to the graphic pen of Mr Nicholls:

He created our navy and made it into a profession, in which, at first, landsmen and commanders of eminence on shore—like Sir Hugh Willoughby—were promoted to high station. But it was soon seen to be, not only highly desirable, but absolutely necessary, that seamen should, from boyhood, be trained for future command on the deep, and that every commander of a ship should be a thorough sailor. Campbell terms him the author of our maritime strength; and it is impossible for even

the most cursory reader of these pages to be blind to the immense services which he rendered to this nation, whose power and position in the world have been won by her commerce and her ships. This man, who surveyed and depicted three thousand miles of a coast which he had discovered; who gave to Britain, not only the continent, but the untold riches of the deep, in the fisheries of Newfoundland, and the whale fishery of the Arctic sea; who broke up a monopoly that, vampire-like, was sucking out England's infant strength, and unlocked for her the treasures of the world, saying, "Go, win and then wear them;" who is never reported to have struck an aggressive blow; who made enemies into friends, and whose friends were ever warmly attached to him; who, by his uprightness and fair dealing, raised England's name high among the nations, placed her credit on a solid foundation, and made her citizens respected; who was the father of free trade, and gave us the carrying trade of the world: this man has not a statue in the city that gave him birth, or in the metropolis of the country he so greatly enriched, or a name on the land he discovered. Emphatically, the most scientific seaman of his own or, perhaps, many subsequent ages—one of the gentlest, bravest, best of men—his actions have been misrepresented, his discoveries denied, his deeds ascribed to others, and calumny has flung its filth on his memory. We have striven to clear away the misrepresentations with which ignorance, prejudice, and malignity have overlaid his life and actions, and to bring out the man from the shroud in which oblivion had partially enwrapped him.

The Earth's History; or, First Lessons in Geology. By D. T. Ansted, M.A., F.R.S., &c. W. H. Allen and Co.

Natural Philosophy in Easy Lessons. By John Tyndall. Cassell and Co.

Elementary text-books have lately multiplied to such an extraordinary extent, that it is now more than ever difficult to select those that are absolutely the best to put into the hands of the young student. Many are written by professors at schools and colleges as class-books to be used as auxiliaries in oral teaching, while others again are compiled for general use, and are more especially adapted for solitary reading and study. To the latter class belong the two little volumes we have mentioned above. The first is an admirable introduction to the science of geology by one of its most eminent expositors. Technical expressions have been avoided as much as possible, and Mr Ansted has been entirely successful in presenting a simple, brief, and lucid account of descriptive geology. Although intended as an elementary treatise, and with no pretence to be a complete account of the subject, the author tells us that "he has endeavoured to write a readable book, and present a continuous history. He has also thought it well to append to the notice of each important group of rocks a list of the characteristic British fossils, better adapted, perhaps, to the use of the advanced student than the first beginner." The numerous woodcuts of fossils and strata render this little book more complete in itself, and more valuable as a pocket volume for the youthful geologist.

Professor Tyndall has been equally successful in his attempt to teach the leading facts and formulæ of natural philosophy in a series of easy lessons. While, however, he has generally confined himself to the elementary principles of the sciences illustrated, he occasionally discourses upon topics that sometimes render his book interesting even to the general reader. Here is a curious experiment for determining the absolute number of vibrations of musical notes:

We have thus far confined ourselves to the consideration of the proportion which the vibrations corresponding to the seven notes of the gamut bear to each other. But supposing that we hear a certain tone—the shrill voice of an opera singer, for example—is there any means by which we can ascertain the absolute number of vibrations to which this tone is due? Can we by any mechanical means count the number of impulses imparted by the vocal organs of the singer to the atmosphere in a second of time? We can. Let a strong wooden disk about seven inches in diameter be weighted by a coating of lead, and upon this disk let a second disk of thin pasteboard, a foot in diameter, be placed. Let the rim of the latter disk be pierced with round holes, each about two lines in diameter, and exactly the same distance apart all round. Let this disk be placed upon the vertical axis of a whirling table and caused to rotate. Let a glass tube of a diameter somewhat less than that of the holes in the pasteboard be so fixed that when the disk rotates the holes shall pass one after another exactly underneath the end of the glass tube. Supposing now that a person blows constantly through the glass tube, and that the number of holes in the disk is twenty, it is manifest that every time the disk goes once round twenty puffs will escape through the apertures. By causing the disk to revolve quickly, a musical note will soon be heard, which increases in height as the disk increases in velocity. Let the singer whose voice it is our intention to examine be placed near the instrument, and let the velocity of the disk be augmented until it sounds the same note as that sounded by the singer. The number of impulses imparted by both to the air will then be the same, and knowing the number of times the handle of the whirling table is turned in a second, we can readily calculate the number of vibrations.

Suppose, for example, that the disk when brought to the pitch of the voice, makes one hundred revolutions in a second: for each revolution we have twenty impulses, and conse-

quently one hundred times twenty, or two thousand impulses in a second, will be the number produced by the singer.

In like manner if we compare the sound of our rotating disk with that of a vibrating string, we shall find that if a string, which produces a certain note be cut in two, to produce the note of the half string the disk must move with twice the velocity necessary to produce the note emitted from the whole string. If our disk be furnished with a second series of holes ten in number, and the note produced by blowing a stream of air against the series of ten, be compared with that produced by blowing against the series of twenty, it will be found that the latter note is the octave of the former.

Professor Tyndall's little volume is well suited to put into the hands of an intelligent boy, as an introductory work on natural philosophy.

The Early Years of Alexander Smith. By the Rev. T. Brisbane. Hodder and Stoughton.

It is impossible to find any fault with this book, and it is nearly as difficult to find anything particular in it to praise. The writer has stored up in his memory many kindly and minute reminiscences of Alexander Smith—an undoubted poet, who seems to us to have been rather hardly entreated by the reading public—and he has noted down these random recollections in an easy, gossipy, amiable fashion, which has just a trifle of dulness in its composition. That dulness we trace chiefly to the want of anything like incident in the story which Mr Brisbane tells. Smith's early life was singularly uneventful, and, always apart from his one great ambition, remarkably commonplace. Constitutionally shy and timid, the author of the "Life-Drama" seems never to have been visited with those strange freaks of self-assertion and theatrical vapourings which have prefigured many a sober and thoughtful manhood. It is true, there are some letters quoted by Mr Brisbane which show Smith, then a young man, aiming at a good deal of self-conscious fine writing; and, indeed, whoever has read Smith's poems will look with some curiosity on certain phrases and notions which are the rude germs of lines that subsequently became famous. As an instance of this we quote one letter—a very boyish production, for which one must make great allowances:

Monday Evening.

Dear Tom,—As we talked this night last week, a few stars were visible in my spirit sky; those visible looked dreary and cold. One has gone out since. Let it go. A star, 'my life's star,' burneth, and will burn: when it sets I set.

Your letter, I need not say, was read with interest. You have my sincere thanks. You have been very frank with me of late; I will return you like for like. I will unclasp my soul to you, and you may read what I had hoped one day to have avowed proudly; or, that hope failing, to have buried it for ever—a dead hope in a dead heart.

You may recollect, on the evening which has given rise to this epistle, you made a guess as to what mine aspirations tended—you guessed poetry. I made some evasive answer. I could not then say 'Ay.' I can now say you guessed aright. It has been the seventh heaven of my aspirations for years; a passion running as deep as the aboriginal waters of my being. At the present moment the 'passion poetry' standeth on the necks of all others like a king, and it will ultimately swallow them as the serpent of Moses swallowed the serpents of the Egyptian magicians. It is with a feeling of humiliation I make this confession. I know not how you will receive it. I trust, however, you will do me justice in your thoughts; that you will not place me in the category with the D—s, K—s, J—s. I believe my spirit is something different from theirs—deeper and sincerer. I am unconscious of that pitiful vanity (the Alpha and Omega of their hopes) to see one's name in print; the immortality of five minutes in the "poet's corner." Above all, don't laugh or sneer, however much you may pity. I could bear sneers on this point from no one, least of all from you. I might keep silent, but I would suffer like a martyr in his shirt of fire. Believe me it's no laughing matter. Underneath those wide doming heavens, that ancient sun, those pitying stars, of all the miseries this is the chiefest—when one has the soul, blood, heart, pulses of an angel—all but the wings! This is egotism with a vengeance, but we are all egotists; and all we are, feel or see—this universe of souls, stars and suns, is but a sublime egotism of Deity.

You tell me you wish I should yet fill a pulpit: this may never be. I speak in sober sadness when I say I am unfit for public life. That fire once burnt brightly on the hearthstone of my heart—the flame flickered, waned, and died; a mighty wind scattered the red embers like autumn leaves; and the hearthstone is now cold; I do not wish to fill a pulpit.

You may be inclined to ask, 'What do you intend to do?' I might say, 'nothing.' To attempt to become a preacher is useless: incapacity within—without difficulties no capacity could overcome—prevent it. What I would like is just some way of living which would feed and cover this carcass, and allow much time to roam through book-world, and the world of my own spirit, like the new-born Adam in the new-born Eden. You may say this life I desire to lead will not be a useful one for my fellows. Granted! I do not intend to gird on an apron and become waiter to the world.

If you judge me by the length of my letter you may think me rather ungrateful. I am at the confessional, and, certes, the confession is no pleasant task. I do not know, however, that anything more need be said. I have unbosomed myself as well as I could. I fear this night's work will lessen your esteem for me, as I have fallen somewhat in my

own in the course of it. If it so be, I will be the only loser. Jog along, Tom; the road of life is rough, but the eternities are ahead. We will reach them soon.

Yours truly, A. SMITH.

Alexander Smith was born in Kilmarnock in 1830, and, while in his boyhood, was removed to Glasgow. His father was a designer, and such was the occupation to which Alexander was brought up. At a very early period of his history, however, literature seems to have won his allegiance; his tendencies in that direction being largely fostered by his becoming a member of a sort of small literary society which some lads had formed in Glasgow. Mr Brisbane, having been himself a member, is rather proud of Smith's connection with the society, and claims for it the honour of having "produced" the poet. We have a suspicion, however, that men of Smith's ability and ambition manage to fight their way and find their level pretty much in defiance of conditions which may raise or lower men of less strength of will; and the inability of the Addisonian society to confer greatness on the other young men who, like Smith, had vague literary sympathies, would seem to show that as a poet-producing machine its power was limited. The people who did help Alexander Smith were one or two critics who took up his poems, and did them a cruel kindness by praising them most injudiciously. This premature trumpeting-forth of the arrival of a new poet only earned for Smith in after-days the reaction of an unmerited neglect; and people who were quite unable to judge of any kind of poetry, and who did not perceive that his later works were infinitely superior to the crude and rhetorical "Life-Drama," were at least justified in saying that the "City Poems" and "Edwin of Deira" showed a falling-away from the position which the poet, on the authority of his first critics, had gained. Yet the "Life-Drama" contains some charming lyrics, many passages of noble description, and here and there a suggestive glimpse of character; while the later poems, more mature in conception and more finished and beautiful in execution, ought to have given Smith a front rank among our minor poets. Undeserved praise, however, was followed by undeserved neglect; and the poet, with now and then an impulsive effort in the old direction, subsided into an essayist. Here his poetic sympathies served him in good stead; and there are passages to be found in his prose-writings which it would be difficult to surpass in the range of English prose literature. Smith continued an essayist to the end—indeed, his very last effort, if we mistake not, was an unfinished essay for the *London Review*—and would seem to have given up all thought of sustained poetical labour. They who are curious about the details of his early career may find something to interest them in this little book, which, although it is the work of a friend, is written in an honest and impartial mood. We are not of opinion that the world has much to do with the private life of its poets, and painters, and authors; and we have often to lament the unwise fashion in which friends and relatives pander to a foolish curiosity, which delights in nothing so much as in learning the domestic habits, the peculiarities, and weaknesses, of its heroes. In the case of Alexander Smith there was nothing to conceal—he does not seem even to have been visited with those boyish follies which most biographers love to think characteristic of young genius. Mr Brisbane writes in a kindly and temperate spirit, and does not make too much of his hero.

The Universe; or, the Infinitely Great and the Infinitely Little. By F. A. Pouchet, M.D. Translated from the French. Blackie and Son.

This is one of many volumes, periodically issuing from the French press, which have always been a mystery to us. For whose benefit are they published? What sort of audience do they address? They are handsome books, illustrated with exquisitely-drawn woodcuts, nicely printed and bound, and yet in spite of these attractions we are at a loss to imagine why they are purchased. They are not addressed to children; and yet the authors of them seem to postulate a childlike ignorance of science on the parts of their readers. They are not addressed to scientific men; for they are merely discursive essays, with little arrangement and less novelty in their facts. Nor can they be supposed to teach science to the ordinary reader, who finds himself reading unconnected observations on terrestrial phenomena, and looking at pictures which, despite their artistic beauty, must remind him of school-treatises on botany and zoology. Obviously, a man

who attacks such a subject as the "Universe" must be discursive, if he means ever to stop; but at the same time one is puzzled to know what is the aim of these random notes on everything in heaven and earth. We begin one chapter, for example, with the statement that some people are foolish enough to believe that mummies may be resuscitated, and the author is good enough to tell us that this is "a monstrous scientific heresy." Fancy Sir Charles Lyell informing us that the moon is *not* formed of green cheese. Then we have some particulars about the infusoria, about fire-proof conjurers, the phoenix, &c., &c., and then our author states that he has thrown some Rotiferæ into a stove heated to 176 deg. Fahr. The chapter closes with the profound reflection, "An ox could not bear with impunity what imperceptible animalcules endure." Now, for whom is this sort of thing written? No man will go to such a book to learn science. On the other hand, the style and aim of the book are clearly not intended for children. Or is "The Universe" what is called a "furniture-book"—a book to lie on the table of people who like the look of handsome volumes, which don't ask to be read? If so, we can heartily commend the volume before us. Its bulk and binding are imposing. The paper and printing are excellent; and the woodcuts are drawn and engraved with remarkable delicacy. There are also some plates of humming birds, flowers, and the like, which are sufficiently pretty.

Mr John Bruce, F.S.A., who died suddenly last week, was one of the most learned and laborious of our literary antiquaries. He was well known to scholars by his publications in the 'Archæologia,' and his able prefaces to the *Calendars of State Papers*, which he edited. He was also a frequent contributor to the *Edinburgh Review* and *Gentleman's Magazine*.

The *Athenæum* records the publication in Japan of a 'Japanese History of the British Parliament,' compiled from Moy, Hallam, and other Constitutional authorities. It has been appropriately issued at Jeddo, where the first Japanese Parliament has recently commenced its labours; and it is doubtless intended to help them to a knowledge of legislative functions. The work is in two thin volumes, and is illustrated by a capital plan of the Palace at Westminster, views of the Palace from the river, and another of the interior, with Mr Disraeli addressing a full House.

Professor Huxley's introductory lecture to the series of Lectures on Natural Science will be given at the South Kensington Museum on Tuesday next, at eleven a.m.

The Government of India have sanctioned the expenditure of 1,000*l.* for the publication of Col. Dalton's 'Ethnology of Bengal.'

In a paragraph headed "the Byron mystery," the *Morning Post* says: "We are informed that Dr Lushington's continued silence on the Byron mystery is in no respect attributable to his age or state of health, his intellect being remarkably clear and vigorous for his age; nor does he shun allusions to the topic, although he declines to state whether Lady Byron did or did not make the specific charge in question."

Mr R. C. Jebb, the new Public Orator at Cambridge, was educated at Trinity College, where he took his B.A. degree in 1862, when he was senior classic, having been previously elected Craven scholar in 1860, and gained the Porson Prize in 1859. He is Assistant Tutor and Greek Grammar Lecturer at Trinity College, and is known as the editor of several Greek plays.

Sir Roberick Murchison has received letters from Dr Livingstone, which he will read at the next meeting of the Geographical Society.

Lord Houghton is going to start for Egypt on Thursday next, as representative of the Royal Geographical Society at the opening of the Suez Canal, by invitation from the Viceroy.

Mr Joseph Barnby will give nine subscription concerts at St James's Hall during the next season, commencing December 8. The Passion music of Bach will be amongst the attractions presented.

Mr Sothorn will not appear at the Haymarket until Christmas, when he will play in an original drama by Dr Westland Marston.

A fine bust of Madame Adeline Patti, by Durand, has been placed in the foyer of the Italiens. She leaves Paris to-day for St Petersburg.

M. Gounod's *Romeo* is not to be given for the present in Berlin, Madame Lucca having declined her part.

A ballet is in preparation in St Petersburg, wherein the stage is to represent a pianoforte key-board, on the keys of which, Lydia, the heroine of the ballet, is to go through her steps.

The Monday Popular Concerts commence on Monday evening next at St James's Hall. The string performers are Mme. Norman-Néruda, MM. Ries, Zerbin, and Piatti. Herr Pauer presides at the pianoforte, and Miss Blanche Cole is the vocalist.

The short series of operatic performances at Covent Garden commence on Monday with *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Mlle Ilma di Murska takes the part of the heroine, and Signor Mongini that of Edgardo.

The lessee of the Exeter Theatre applied to the city magistrates on Tuesday last to prohibit the appearance of Mr Mark Lemon as "Falstaff" in a building not licensed for dramatic representations. The Bench stated, through their clerk, that they could not issue an injunction to Mr Lemon, but his entertainment would unquestionably be illegal, and they advised the lessee of the theatre to give him notice that he would be prosecuted after his first appearance.

It is now stated that the paragraph in the *Orchestra* as to probable law proceedings against Mr Sothorn by Mr H. J. Byron is incorrect. No misunderstanding has arisen between those gentlemen.

THE FRENCH GALLERY.

The seventeenth annual winter exhibition of pictures by British and foreign artists has just been opened in its ancient quarters, 120 Pall Mall. The exhibition, on the whole, does not seem to us to contain as many striking pictures as that of last year, yet there are many good pictures in it, such as well deserve attention and study. What we have been in the habit of enjoying at this exhibition, in former years, is the opportunity it presents of directly contrasting specimens of the modern Continental schools with those of our native artists. Now, this year the foreign pictures are not, as a rule, very remarkable, although we have one or two contributions from familiar sources. Perhaps, however, in glancing briefly over some of the more noteworthy works, it will be as well to follow the numbers in the catalogue. We very soon come, then, to Mr B. W. Leader's "Fine Autumn Afternoon at Capel Curig, North Wales" (3). The fault we have generally to find with Mr Leader's landscapes is that they are too obviously picturesque—that they exhibit a sort of heaped-up picturesqueness of material, rather than any fine interpretation of nature's moods. In this little picture, however, Mr Leader has got out of very simple materials a most delicate and artistic effect, which is in every sense satisfactory. Similarly good is his "Waiting for the Ferry at the Head of Derwentwater" (162), in which some fine masses of hills are half hidden by a glare of pale sunshine; while his "Sunset—Head of Derwentwater" (22) belongs to his less satisfactory works, in which the hand of the landscape-painter is too apparent. We have only to say that No. 9, "Calm off the Coast of Holland," is by P. J. Clays, to let all lovers of art know that here is another of those marvellous, low-toned sea pictures, in which the limpid and transparent water is a wonder of artistic power. Mr E. Nicol sends two companion pictures, "The Steward's Letter" (15), and "The Tenant's Letter" (28), both of which are excellent studies. "Grandmother's Birthday" (35), by C. Beyschlag, tells a charming story, and is full of fine and pleasing characterisation. The child's face is very good; but the mother of this little German has features of an evident French type. Mr J. B. Burgess sends, as usual, one or two Spanish subjects, vigorously treated, with a too obvious repetition of particular faces. His "Little Spanish Lady" (40), for example, is a charming little girl, whom we are beginning to think we have seen somewhat too often. "The Padre's Visit" (135), shows Mr Burgess at his best; but we must beg of him to change his models. There is some vigorous, realistic painting in Mr Archer's "Sir Launcelot Banished from this realm of England by King Arthur" (41), but surely Launcelot had something finer and nobler in his appearance. Mr Archer's Launcelot, with the blue shadows about his face, looks like a badly-shaven actor, who has just donned a suit of mail, and regards with dismay the head-piece which is to complete his armour. "A Summer's Afternoon" (50), and "Sleep" (59), are two of Mr J. S. Cooper's landscapes, exhibiting his usual qualities. Mr T. Faed is represented by a charming study, "In Doubt" (55), of a young rustic maiden, who is writing a letter, and who has apparently stopped to think of some phrase or word. The face of the girl is very pretty, with a prettiness different from that smooth, conventional prettiness which marks too many of the faces in the present exhibition. M. de Jonghe gives us some more of his faithfully painted yellow satin hangings in "The Picture Book" (65), in which a young mother, lying in bed, is showing the book to her little daughter. Mr J. Bertrand's "Young Garibaldians" (66) is a clever picture, capitally treated; but the faces of the mischievous urchins, who are testifying their contempt for priestcraft by drawing pictures on the wall, seem to us too old and mature in expression. Mr Creswick is the author of "Fording the Stream" (75), a light, clear landscape, with no particular character about it. Mr G. B. O'Neill's "Out of

Danger" (79) has a pleasant subject, and is most artistically treated. We confess to having been rather disappointed with Mr Orchardson's "The Idol," which, while exhibiting the powerful colouring for which the artist is celebrated, seems to us unnecessarily bare and crude (not to say ugly) in subject, and very scratchy in treatment. There is quite as much vigour in the colouring of Mr Pettie's "A Hard Fight" (98), with a mellower and richer tone. Add to this that the subject of the latter painting has in itself some effort at idealisation. The woman in both pictures might have been painted from the same model; and yet the difference between the two faces is remarkable and suggestive. Mr Pettie's "Romeo and the Apothecary" (126) is a striking picture, powerfully treated. "The Visit" (120), by G. Koller, and "Going to Mass" (140), by J. Devriendt, belong to the school which aims at resuscitating the extreme literalness of treatment of the mediæval Flemish artists. There is much that is excellent in both of these pictures, although the quiet and truthful character in the faces is somewhat lost sight of in the prominence given to the accessories. Mr J. Hayllar's "On the River Alde, Suffolk" (121), is a landscape which it does one good to see, so fresh in subject and treatment is it. Mr J. C. Horsley's "A Cosy Corner" (158) represents a woman with impossible, doll-like eyes looking at you from over the top of a book. The picture is more remarkable than satisfactory. No. 173 gives us M. Billotte's notion of Hamlet, a young man with light brown moustache and hair, greyish blue eyes, a pensive face, and a figure somewhat ludicrously suggestive of that of a girl. M. E. Long's "Liberty of Creed—Andalusia" (176) deals with familiar materials, as it represents two Spanish priests walking along a street, while the people are reading the edict with which the Revolutionaries recently broke the yoke of the ecclesiastics. The grouping is dramatic and effective, and there are several faces in the picture finely painted. The same thing may be said of C. Schlessler's "Forbidden Fruit"—a number of children smoking in school, the master being absent. Some of the faces in this picture are capital, and there is throughout a careful attendance to tone which is highly praiseworthy.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

We deeply regret to state that Mr George Peabody died at half-past eleven on Thursday night at his house in Eaton Square.

Sir Richard Levinge, Bart., late M.P. for the county of Westmeath, has expressed his readiness to come forward in the Liberal interest for Chester. The family claims ancient connection with the borough.

A meeting was held at Exeter Hall on Thursday evening, in commemoration of "past deliverances from Popery, and in the hope of future triumphs for Protestantism." Mr Charley, one of the members for Salford, presided. A resolution pledging the meeting to resist "the encroachments of the Papal system" was passed.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4.—On Tuesday the Republicans secured a majority in the West Virginia Legislature. Later returns show that the Democrats have also a majority in the New York Legislature.

ROUEN, Nov. 4.—M. Ozenne received to-day the members of the Industrial Committee, and he reiterated to them his former declaration that a Bill on the question of the general customs tariff would be introduced in the Legislative Body as soon as it re-assembles. He added that the Government would naturally comply with the decision of the Legislative Body, and on the 4th of February next give notice of withdrawal from the Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce should the Chamber desire it. The Committee expressed themselves satisfied with M. Ozenne's declarations.

BERLIN, Nov. 4.—With reference to the resolution of Herr Virchow, proposing that the military expenditure should be reduced, and that the Lower House of the Diet should call upon the Government to advocate a general disarmament, Herr Lasker, on behalf of the National Liberals, has given notice of his intention to move that in lieu of that resolution the House should pass a modified order of the day, inasmuch as the military budget of the North German Confederation for 1871 is already determined by the Federal Constitution.

VIENNA, Nov. 4.—In to-day's sitting of the Lower House of the Reichsrath, the preliminary debate upon the Budget commenced. The Minister of Finance announced several financial reforms, and amongst other things he proposed that the whole 4 per cent. and 4½ per cent. debt existing in the old provinces of the empire should by voluntary arrangement, and by the offer of a premium, be converted into an equivalent 4½ per cent. rente debt, the redemption of which the State would not be bound to undertake. The Minister also stated that, with the concurrence of the House, the Government would withdraw the Bill increasing the taxation by 25 per cent.

THE ART OF ALMS.

"That man is an enemy to England who does not care to give a helping hand where he can."—*Erasmus*.

In pursuance of our plan laid down in our statement under this head (*Examiner*, Oct. 16, 1869), we submit to our readers an account of the methodical labours of charity which Mr Thomas Twining, Vice-President of the Society of Arts, has gone through single-handed.

MR TWINING'S ECONOMIC MUSEUM.

A visit to the Economic Museum at Twickenham would do good to many a pretentious theorist who has been pondering the extinction of pauperism, and to many a rich donor to imposing forms of charity. This museum, in a gentleman's garden, is the special product of a thoughtful man, who has kept practical objects always before him. Here is a wise use of money for the benefit of the poor; and the results which may be obtained by the imitation or extension of Mr Twining's methods of teaching the ignorant and lowly that most valuable of lessons—the art of helping themselves—are of a fundamental character.

The foreign training and experiences of the founder of the Economic Museum are evident, not only in the orderly, scientific arrangement of the museum itself, but also in a *cadre de classification* with which he accompanied his programme, prepared in the spring of 1862, for the *Congrès International de Bienfaisance*. This classification is most excellent in conception and wonderfully comprehensive in its details. To those who may be studying questions affecting the poor and the well-being of the working-classes, we recommend it for reference, as at once copious and orderly. Mr Twining was already at work on his favourite theme in 1837, when he returned to England and sketched a plan for carrying out, on a scientific foundation, the improvement of the condition of the working classes. Ill-health—against which the founder of this Twickenham Museum has heroically striven all his life—here interrupted his labours. In 1847 we find him an active committee-man of the Labourer's Friend Society. It appears that it was while part of the active body of this society Mr Twining conceived the idea on which his work and money have been expended, namely his scheme for establishing museums of domestic and sanitary economy. The writer of this paper remembers well having been struck with the admirable conception embodied under an *Annexe* behind the main building of the Universal Exhibition of 1855 in Paris. It was a collection of all descriptions of household gods; of human food and clothing; of all material things, in short, necessary to man. It included marvels of cheapness, ingenious devices for the economy of space, and food and clothing. The visitors called it "the exhibition of cheapness;" but it was more than that; it was an exhibition of prudence, of forethought, of cleanliness, of health, which, be it understood, is the foundation of domestic economy. This admirable little exhibition of humble household gods, that lay behind the glittering galleries of luxury in the Champs Elysées, was the work of Mr. Thomas Twining, and the parent of the Economic Museum at Twickenham. This museum is instituted by way of example, and there is a focus of information on the subjects which are illustrated in its dainty little galleries. Here, it is justly observed, in a few words which introduce the classification of the museum: "All classes of society, and especially those whose income is small, are shown how their dwellings should be constructed in accordance with sanitary principles; what household improvements they may derive from the discoveries of science, or borrow from the customs and appliances of other nations; what fabrics they should wear, what food they should eat, and how it ought to be cooked; how they may distinguish things which are genuine, wholesome, substantial, durable, and really cheap, from those which are cheap only in appearance; and, in short, how they may live with judgment, and get the best money's worth for their money." The collection is parted into nine classes: 1. Building designs; 2. Materials for building and for furniture; 3. Fixtures, furniture, and household utensils; 4. Textile materials, fabrics, and costumes; 5. Food, fuel, and other household stores; 6. Sanitary department; 7. Home education, self-instruction, and recreation; 8. Miscellaneous articles not referable to the foregoing classes, as the cottagers' and emigrants' assortment of tools, contrivances of all kinds for lightening labour, appliances for locomotion and the conveyance of burdens, seeds for horticulture and small husbandry, and samples of museum fittings and appliances, with estimates for the use of persons desiring to form Economic Collections on any scale of development; 9. The economic library—a most important department, in which the seriously inquisitive visitor will find a wonderful store of English and foreign works on domestic, sanitary, educational, and social economy, and on practical benevolence, collected in various parts of the world.

We entreat the reader's attention to Mr Twining's Economic Museum, because the imitation of it in every part of the country, which was his chief object in establishing it, would do more real good among the working poor than

blanket clubs and other kindred local benevolent associations, which teach very little more than a pernicious habit of dependence. There are departments of the museum itself in which the idea is not so fully or practically carried out as it might be. Let us take Class 4, which includes clothing. The collection includes excellent samples and drawings of the cheap clothing of other countries. But here there is a gap. An exhibition of the cheap clothing of all nations is an idea which we submit to Mr Twining—or perhaps Mr Cole would deign to examine it. If the visitor to this Economic Museum could make a critical examination of the work-day dress of various races, and justly estimate the relative cost and comfort, and durability, not omitting picturesqueness and propriety, he would assuredly carry away an item of information of the most valuable kind. Drawings are of no use. A mere collection of material would be of little service, unaccompanied with particulars as to price, strength, &c. We throw out this hint, quite assured that Mr Twining will not only receive it in good part, but will even thank us for it; since he is a true unselfish worker in the cause which includes so many bunglers and pretenders, namely, the amelioration of the condition of the working poor.

It is even refreshing to mark, step by step, the zealous practical mind that has been fixed for many years on this museum as a starting point for easy instruction. Down to the present time only one satisfactory copy of Mr Twining's collection has been formed. The credit of having been the first worthily to imitate the practical philanthropist of Twickenham is Mr Nourse, a medical gentleman, who has set up a good Economic Museum at Brighton. Mr Twining has not remained idle; he has his own demonstrator, and lecturer, and curator. Last November a long report appeared in the newspapers, headed "Science among the Costermongers." Mr Twining's officers had been lecturing among the poorest and lowest on the application of science to the requirements of daily life, and they found among the roughest of the rough attentive listeners to the plain things they had to say, and the experiments they had to show. The science was made not only easy but attractive, and its possible application to their own humble predicaments was forcibly dwelt upon. An earnest worker among the poor, Mr W. J. Orsman, known as the Bishop of Golden Lane, kept order by the simple waving of his hand. Mr Twining's campaign is opening again for the winter. We saw the admirably contrived lecture boxes in the museum, packed with all the needful appliances and elements for the illustrations which give so much force to the lecturer's story when he is addressing a half-educated or uneducated audience. Mr Twining's Lectures and Lessons on Science, made easy and applied to every-day life, are arranged and written by himself. He has just completed a course of twenty-four familiar class lessons, embracing the elements of inorganic and organic chemistry, in such a manner as to form a substantial common foundation for the various trades and handicrafts involving chemical knowledge. Each of these lessons is to be enforced by a separate complementary course, giving special technical knowledge. Now, this is in all respects admirable practicable work, the very noblest kind of alms an educated and a rich man can give to the uneducated and unfortunate.

Mr Twining's scientific and technical teaching in such humble localities as Golden Lane and Lambeth Baths is brought to a test as to its effect by a series of examinations. The examinations which have been already held have given the most encouraging results. They have demonstrated that no inconsiderable portion of Mr Twining's rough audiences weigh and digest that which they hear and see. We have selected the Economic Museum at Twickenham for the subject of our first paper, because we take it to be about as good a sample of practical labour spreading from a single man's hands, far and wide, and really and truly blessing those on whom it falls, as any in the lists of Mr Low or Mr Fry.

B. J.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

The importance of the interests involved in the successful working of the Building Societies now so widely diffused throughout the country has led to the formation of a "Building Societies' Protection Association," the first quarterly meeting of which was held on Friday evening last, at Kenman's Hotel, Crown Court, Cheapside. The main objects of this association are to watch the course of Parliamentary action on all matters which concern this large class of Friendly Societies, to collect judicial decisions affecting their interests, and to afford counsel and advice on points of practice where doubts or differences arise. At preliminary meetings, rules had been decided upon, and an Executive Committee appointed provisionally, with power to fill up vacancies in the honorary offices of the association. Mr W. M. Torrens, whose interest in this branch of social improvement is evidenced by the "Artizans' Dwellings Act" introduced into Parliament by him, as well as the attention he has given to the organisation and progress of different Building Societies, accepted the office of President, and on Friday last presided at the general meeting which was held to organise the Association on a permanent basis. In an "omnibus" Bill, which was hurried through the Legislature at the close of the Session of 1868, a clause was introduced, amongst provisions

as to methylated spirits, distillers' bonds, and affidavits of value for probate, which effectually excised one of the privileges under which Building Societies have reached their present status. In consideration of the benefit to the community which resulted from the thrift, self-denial, and forethought practised by members of Building Societies, at an early stage in their history, the Legislature conceded total exemption from stamp duty on all mortgages made to these societies. For some time past the Inland Revenue Department has been noting with jealous eye the increasing amount of those transactions upon which they were prohibited from taking toll, and various abortive attempts were made to abolish this exemption. In 1868 a proposition was brought forward by the Treasury to limit the exemption to cases in which the advance made did not exceed 200*l*. This was resisted, but a compromise was ultimately agreed to upon the basis of 500*l*. In passing through the remaining stages, by some means an alteration in the wording occurred, and the Act, after receiving the Royal assent, was found to exempt from duty only those mortgages in which, not the "amount advanced," but the "amount secured to be repaid"—(a term which is open to the interpretation of including the interest chargeable over a period of ten, twelve, or fourteen years.)—was less than 500*l*. The consequence of this appears to be that an advance of 320*l*. for fourteen years involves the necessity of a stamp, while the advance of 350*l*. for ten years escapes such an imposition—an anomaly which can hardly be supposed to have been within the intentions of the Legislature. Thus much in the way of preface. The Executive Committee on Friday last presented the following report:

Your Committee have much pleasure in reporting the progress of the Association to the present time, and whilst they cannot congratulate you on having yet enrolled a large number of societies, the importance of the interests represented by the Executive Committee only will be seen by the following figures, which are compiled from returns of the several societies with which they are officially connected:

Amount to credit of Investing Members,	£
including Loans and Deposits	1,997,600
Balance due on Advances on Mortgage	2,088,000
Total Assets	2,198,000

Your Committee have also to report that they have obtained the valuable assistance of W. T. McCullagh Torrens, Esq., M.P., W. McArthur, Esq., M.P., Andrew Johnston, Esq., M.P., and Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P., as Vice-Presidents, and the Committee will be glad to receive the assistance of the members generally in increasing the number of honorary members.

Some members of your Committee joined deputations from Liverpool and other large towns to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 20th April last, to endeavour to obtain his support to a measure for the repeal of the clause in the Inland Revenue Bill of last year with reference to the stamp duty on mortgages; the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised to communicate with the Liverpool deputation, but your Committee have not heard from them as to the result.

Your Committee desire to call especial attention to an important judgment by the present Lord Chancellor, *Matterson v. Elderfield*; also to two important suits now pending in the Court of Chancery, as to the power or right of Building Societies to obtain loans or to receive money on deposit.

Your Committee have further to report that a Bill was brought into the House of Commons towards the close of the last Session by Mr Gourley, Sir Roundell Palmer, Q.C., and Mr Stevenson, to amend the Building Societies' Act, so far as to give societies power either to borrow money for the purposes of the society, or to issue fully paid up or preference shares; also containing clauses requiring every society to make a return annually to the Registrar of Building Societies, and as it is probable that the Bill will be again introduced into Parliament early next Session, you will be invited to consider the said Bill, and the propriety of suggesting some amendments thereto; and also of introducing a clause for the repeal of the eleventh section of the Inland Revenue Bill of last year, by which a portion of the exemption from stamp duty on mortgages was repealed.

Your Committee have also to state that since the meeting at which the Association was formed, Messrs W. W. Baynes, of the "Monarch," J. Breeze, of the "Clerkenwell," F. Gavin, of the "Queen's," W. S. Hoare, of the "Imperial" and "Cavendish," and W. R. Selway, of the "London and General," have been elected members of the Committee, and that, in accordance with a resolution adopted when the Committee were appointed, they now all retire, but are eligible for re-election; and also that, by a resolution passed at the same meeting, it will be necessary to elect a secretary to the Association.

Your Committee would desire, in conclusion, to urge upon the members the importance of inducing any other societies they may be connected with to join the Association, and with a view to secure the co-operation of provincial societies generally, a proposal will be submitted to the meeting for the enrolment of those societies without being members of the Association, on such terms as may be thought desirable.

London, Oct. 29th, 1869. By order of the Committee.

This report was received and adopted on the motion of Mr J. Higham, senior (3rd and 4th City Mutual), seconded by Mr W. R. Warner (Sun). The limit suggested as to borrowing powers was, that the amount borrowed should not exceed "one-half the amount then standing to the credit of investing members on subscribing and fully paid-up shares." An objection was taken to this basis, in the interest of the terminating societies, and the resolution was passed subject to amendment by the Committee. Mr J. F. Stanesby (West London) pointed out the uncertainty which would be introduced as to titles, arising from difference of opinion in different cases as to the applicability of the exemption from stamp duty, and which might prove to be fruitful sources of contention many years

hence, unless the clause was repealed. Words repealing that clause were therefore suggested by the Association as additions to Mr Gourley's Bill, and unanimously adopted by the meeting. In the course of the conversation it was elicited that Mr Bruce had communicated the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill next Session, a fact which, the chairman said, it would be their duty to watch with care, lest their liberty and self-dependence as voluntary associations should in any respect be infringed. Government desired, as far as possible, to get the whole of the savings of the people into their hands. This was a bureaucratic instinct of centralised power, and which equally characterised Whig and Tory administrations. But it was a tendency which ought to be jealously watched, if not resisted. The Treasury had already 46,000,000*l.* of the people's money in their hands, and last Session they brought in a Bill which would have virtually abolished most of the country banks, and transferred their business to the Post Office, had not a resolute stand been made by certain members against such a course. Perhaps a similar attempt might be made in reference to Building Societies. The larger proportion of the people's money in the Treasury was now lent out to the large landholders, great companies, and public bodies, and a very small proportion was available for the classes to whom it belonged. The governing powers appeared to regard all such societies as unworthy of confidence, but he trusted that a firm stand would be made by all interested in Building Societies against any fundamental changes in the existing system, which was based on the principle of self-denial and of self-rule, and of not lending your money to persons whom they did not know. It was extremely desirable that these new ties which were binding people together should be fostered instead of being weakened in times like the present, when they were witnessing the decay of the old parochial and territorial links and obligations. It was no sufficient argument to point to occasional failures of Building Societies. Was not the same observable among the merchant princes of the land, and was not society at large actually suffering prostration unparalleled from miscalculations of great firms and great companies, or something worse?

Mr Warner drew attention to a defect in the law, which gave no protection to the name under which a Building Society traded; any new society might adopt a name which had been associated with many years of successful operations, and Mr Tidd Pratt declared his inability to refuse to register it. The chairman said that whatever might be the views of members in regard to Building Societies, it would be universally conceded that a society was entitled to a copyright in the name under which it traded, and he would willingly undertake to frame a clause to afford to that measure of protection. An addition to Mr Gourley's Bill, authorising Building Societies to receive money on deposit, payable at not less than one month's notice, was adopted. A resolution was adopted entitling provincial societies to enrolment by the Association on payment of 5*s.* annually, "such societies to have the advantage of the record kept of all legal proceedings affecting Building Societies, and to be advised of any Parliamentary proceedings, especially with a view to co-operation either in supporting or opposing them, as may be considered desirable," was carried unanimously, on the motion of Mr Breese (Clerkenwell), seconded by Mr Baynes (Monarch). The chairman strongly urged the propriety of adding to the list of vice-presidents of the Association members from the Conservative side of the House. He had found the advantage of that co-operation in regard to the Artisans' Dwellings Act, and this was no party question. The retiring committee-men were re-elected, the secretary *pro tem.* (Mr J. Higham, jun.) permanently appointed, and a vote of thanks to the chairman for his attendance and for his valuable suggestions was cordially adopted.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE CITY.—It is now officially stated that on the occasion of the Queen's visit to the City her Majesty will leave the Great Western Railway Station, Paddington, in state, and proceed by way of the parks, Constitution Hill, the Horse Guards, Westminster Bridge, and Stamford Street, arriving at Blackfriars Bridge, Surrey side, at twelve o'clock.

THE MARQUIS OF HASTINGS AND HIS LIABILITIES.—The case of "Bubb v. Yelverton" was before Mr Church, chief clerk, on Tuesday, for the proof of debts. This is a suit, among other things, for creditors to prove, and some claims connected with the turf, exceeding 10,000*l.*, are expected to be made. Mr Raide (Messrs Gregory) asked for a special appointment to go into the matter, as several important questions as to claims would arise. The chief clerk said he hoped some discussion would take place. The 29th inst. was appointed to proceed with the sporting claims, &c.

The following gentlemen have been appointed Queen's counsel, and on Tuesday last took their seats within the bar of the various common law courts: Messrs Adams, Fooks, Eddis, D. Brown, Bristowe, Edlin, Hughes, Kay, Bere, Henry James, Lopes, Morgan Fry, and Pope.

THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.—The *Figaro* says that Latin will be the language which will be used in the Ecumenical Council, and that the congregation of the Index has been commissioned to fix a uniform pronunciation, in order that in the diversity of accents the assembly may not degenerate into another Tower of Babel.

HOSPITAL ENDOWMENTS.

Sir,—The question suggested by the letter of "F.R.C.S.," which recently appeared in your columns, is, in what way can the resources of the endowed hospitals be made most serviceable to the community? A question of such magnitude, involving, as it does, the disposal of the three rich foundations of St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's, and Guy's, cannot be settled off-hand. It requires an intimate acquaintance with the working of these corporations, which the outside public can scarcely expect to gain, except by the aid of a Parliamentary inquiry. But it may, nevertheless, be useful to notice the aspects in which these great establishments present themselves to the general view; and those already named, which are the only institutions of the kind on a large scale in London, may suffice for my present purpose. To begin with, they clearly exist for the public interest alone; no other reason for their being can be worth a moment's consideration. No private interest can have the smallest claim to be respected in connection with them. Those who serve the public in them are entitled to be paid at the full value of their work, and ought to be subject to the same rigid supervision in their performance of it as would be the case if it were a matter of ordinary commerce. Beyond this no claim to public credit or consideration can arise which would not be equally cogent in the case of Poor-Law officers and others employed in administering public funds.

Two distinct objects are served by the maintenance of great public hospitals—one, the relief of a certain number of sick poor; the other, the provision of a sufficient quantity of material for medical study. As a supply of well-taught physicians and surgeons is of the greatest moment to the whole community, while the aid given to the poor acts only to relieve the rates of a particular district, there can be no doubt which of these objects is the more important. Medical teaching on a large scale would obviously be impossible if the instructive cases were scattered in different courts and alleys instead of being brought together under one roof; therefore there would still be a good reason for the existence of general hospitals, even when all possible measures had been taken to improve the dwellings of the poor, to diminish overcrowding, and to establish an efficient system of home nursing in connection with district dispensaries. Though successful treatment of the poor in their homes would be rendered practicable in most cases, there would remain a certain proportion which would be better treated in a well-ordered general hospital. Instructive cases might also be transferred from the work-house infirmaries; so that an ample supply of material could be secured for making these hospitals the centres of medical teaching. The case of out-patients is not different from that of in-patients. Acute and aggravated cases which furnish special materials for teaching might be drafted from the district dispensaries, or allowed to present themselves for gratuitous treatment, while all others would have to pay for treatment elsewhere.

As a necessary corollary, it would follow that teachers of the highest ability must be secured, and that their work must be liberally paid for. No suspicion of favouritism or jobbing ought to be possible; and the voice of the students might well be to some extent consulted in the appointments. The electors should be men qualified by their special knowledge for such a trust.

St Bartholomew's, where intestine strife has lately been attracting public attention, seems to be very far from realising this ideal. Its waiting-rooms are thronged with patients who ought to be cared for in parochial dispensaries, if at all; its wards are often occupied by cases which have no claim to gratuitous relief, and no value for the purpose of teaching. Its teachers are members of its own staff, and its staff is selected, not for teaching power, but for presumed practical skill: while the judges of that skill are not experts, but for the most part City tradesmen. The endowments of St Bartholomew's exceed 48,000*l.* a-year; and any person can practically buy the right of sharing in the administration of them by paying 50*l.* and becoming a "governor." The original trustees, who were the Corporation of London, seem to have forgotten that so anomalous a form of government exists: for a mere description carries condemnation with it. What limit can there be to abuses when the only check upon these self-constituted protectors of a great endowment is a vague and meagre statement of accounts sent in by them every year to the Charity Commission? I am, &c., M.D.

Spirit of the Journals.

PRIM'S POSITION IN SPAIN.

The *Times* holds that the good understanding between Prim and Serrano has been, in the eyes of all Liberals, a monstrous thing from the beginning. The combination, it is now universally felt, must come to an end, and this insoluble knot of the King's election affords the best opportunity. The dissolution of partnership, it is also very evident, can hardly be effected without a disastrous outbreak. The Unionists clearly perceive that they have no chance of success. After weeks of vain debate, the Ministers belonging to that party have tendered their resignation. Serrano, the Regent, is bound to follow. Prim remains master of the situation; but that is precisely what suits him least. He wishes for the substance of power, but under some one else who should be invested with its semblance. For the last twelvemonth this convenient cloak to his ambition has been Serrano; but what if Serrano withdraws and the Duke of Genoa is not to be brought in? Then Prim stands forth exposed to the envy of the great and the rancour of the small—alone between friends who do not trust him and enemies who, when the time comes, will not spare him.

DISESTABLISHING A STATE CHURCH.

The *Daily News*, on the announcement that the practice of subsidising the ministers of religion in Victoria is about to be abolished, remarks that no party appears to have opposed this measure as the disestablishment of the Irish Church was opposed, on the ground that it was "a national apostasy" and "an open renunciation of God." Indeed, under the circumstances it would have been difficult to advance such a charge, for the change had become necessary, not because the Victorians cared too little for the ordinances of religion, but that they cared for too many. Under the fundamental law of 1854 it has been the custom of the Government to reserve 50,000*l.* per annum for buildings for public worship and for ministers of religion, to be apportioned according to the relative numbers of each denomination. This arrangement satisfied the secular demand for fairness and equality; but it has always been opposed by those who were wounded in their religious sentiments by the equal recognition of truth and its opposite. As long as the money was exclusively shared by Christians differing chiefly on questions of Church government the anomaly might be borne by the great body of citizens; but presently the Jews claimed their just and lawful share of the grant. A demand so fair could not, of course, be refused, but its concession set a large number of people thinking, and led them to ask what was gained by making the Jews pay for the religion of Christians, and the Christians for that of the Jews. By-and-by came the Chinese immigration, and the question had to be faced whether the joss-houses of the Celestials should not be also supported out of the public funds. The result was what it was certain to be in any community inheriting English traditions. In this history we may see indicated the shortest way of disestablishing a dominant Church. If the able and earnest men who twenty years ago addressed themselves to the unpromising task of dethroning the Church of England had been willing to accomplish their object by any means, and could have brought themselves to seek equality in equal endowment, it is hardly possible to believe that their movement—seconded as it would have been by the lay spirit of fairness, and welcomed by all who are impatient of the claims of any one system to superior truth—would not have obtained an immediate success, to be followed by an amount of disgust that would soon have converted the sincere friends of religion of every community into advocates of impartial disendowment.

THE TRIAL OF MAJOR LOBBIA.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* remarks that the trial of Major Lobbia for making a false charge of crime is proceeding at Florence, and raises a variety of interesting questions. The proceedings are most voluminous. The indictment fills fourteen newspaper columns, the depositions of above 400 witnesses were laid before the magistrates who considered whether there were grounds for procedure, their judgment occupies 156 pages, and 135 witnesses are cited to give evidence in court. The counsel for Major Lobbia complain that they have had no time to master this enormous bulk of matter, the trial having been hurried on at the earliest possible day, and every application for delay refused. The reason assigned for this is that a clause in the Constitution declares that "no deputy shall be arrested during the sitting of the Chamber, nor brought to trial, except with leave of the Chamber," a prerogative which the prosecution holds to be in all its parts restricted to the sitting of the Chamber, and which it wishes to evade by concluding the trial before the Chambers meet on the 18th. But Major Lobbia contends that the sentence is to be read as giving protection from arrest only during the Session, while the protection against trial is irrespective of the Session, and he has on this ground appealed to the Court of Cassation against the trial taking place. The prosecution, however, adopted the extraordinary course of forbidding the officers of the Court to receive the appeal, and the inferior Court, in despite of it, is proceeding with the trial. To meet this arbitrary conduct Major Lobbia's advisers have taken the step of advising him to absent himself from the trial, which is

thus being conducted against him as absent through contumacy, while by a direct application to the Court of Cassation they have obtained that the appeal on the constitutional question shall be heard. Even the accusation, however, seems to an on-looker somewhat contradictory. Major Lobbia was first accused of having wounded himself, and also of falsely pretending that he had been wounded; but the committing magistrates rejected the first branch of the charge, so that he is now not accused of self-wounding, but of pretending that another person had wounded him. As there is no doubt that he really was seriously wounded, it is rather difficult to see how he could help attributing it to some one else, if there is no ground for supposing him to have done it voluntarily.

THE CANDIDATES FOR THE SPANISH THRONE.

The *Post* remarks that the Duke of Genoa is a mere lad, who is yet too young even to have given promise of regal ability, and who would be nothing more than a puppet in the hands of Prim; but at any rate he would start on his career untrammelled by preconceived views, and unaffected by the animosity which surrounds every man who has appeared in public life before Spaniards. The Duke de Montpensier has resided for a great portion of his life in Spain, and has won considerable popularity by his persevering efforts to adopt its current habits and opinions; but, on the other hand, he has made a far from honourable or dignified figure in public life, and he is a Bourbon of the careful, little-minded type which Spaniards most detest. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that he would make a very fair, hard-working King, and now that the Spaniards have pretty well exhausted their heroics, they are coming round to the opinion that a ruler of this description is precisely what they want. As between the two, therefore, the opinions are all in favour of Montpensier, and, in spite of the influence exerted by Prim in the Cortes, which he has opportunely purged of his Republican opponents, it seems all but certain that the Duke of Genoa can hardly obtain the requisite number of votes to secure his election, which, if it be so, will leave Montpensier alone in the field. There is, indeed, every chance now that the Revolution will, after all, come back to the point from which it started, and will, after so many chances, changes, and defeated aspirations, throw itself into the arms of the Prince through whose agency it was first started.

THE ROMAN CHURCH.

The *Telegraph* remarks that "the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church are credited only so far as political safety will permit. At one time the Pope was the supreme director of Catholic consciences, now it is the King. Four centuries ago Rome could dictate to Paris; now it is Paris which dictates to Rome. In old days civil States were tolerated by the Church only so long as they did not touch her possessions or imperil her power; now the Church is tolerated by civil States only because she is politically impotent. By comparison with the great theocracy which could once set up and pull down kings, and which even men of intellect believed to wield the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, the Roman Catholic Church of to-day is lifeless. The whole secular intellect of the Continent calmly sets aside her pretensions as too preposterous for discussion. Scholarship is ceasing to debate her historical claims to hold a monopoly of religious truth. Civil Governments no longer pay the slightest attention to her dictates, and calmly permit their policy to be determined by that regard for the secular good of the greatest number which is fundamentally antagonistic to sacerdotal claims. We can now afford to admire the past greatness of the Roman Church, and the undoubted Christian qualities which many of her chief devotees still display. Hence it is only with curiosity that Protestant nations and Catholic statesmen look forward to the meeting of the Council; and all the pastors in the world cannot conceal the fact, that the bishops who are next month to meet in the Vatican will represent a Church which, in comparison with the great theocracy of the past, is politically dead."

MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATION.

The *Times* "has not the slightest sympathy with the apprehension occasionally expressed lest competition should be rendered dangerous by public emulation. It is just as natural for boys to race for the prizes of learning as for those of physical vigour, and in both cases the advantages of diligent training far counterbalance the occasional risks. Life is more or less of a race from beginning to end, and no man ever succeeds or deserves to succeed who fails to concentrate all his energies on winning. Great skill and judgment are, indeed, required in determining the nature and conditions of the race. It is just as mischievous to set boys work that is beyond their age and capacity as to race two-year olds over the Derby course, or to set Eton boys to row from Putney to Mortlake. The persons who are to blame for the evils of 'cramming' and of overstrained study are the examiners. Neither the 'crammers' nor the system of competition itself is in fault. It is perfectly possible to try the relative merits of both boys and men within their powers, and those who deprecate the effects of competition should direct their attention to this practical point. The Universities, we believe, are least at fault in this matter. Long experience has trained a race of skilful examiners, who know how to test the relative merits of candidates by moderate rather than

excessive trials. In their hands we have not the least fear for the consequences of the present emulation among all classes of scholars. There can, in short, be little doubt that middle-class education has now been started on the right course."

DR TEMPLE AND THE SEE OF EXETER.

Upon the question of Dr Temple's election the *John Bull* says: "It is generally understood that the following members of the Chapter will vote for Dr Temple: The Dean, Canon Cook, Archdeacon Downwall, Prebendaries Mackarness, Saunders, Acland, Hedgeland, and Breton. Those reckoned on to oppose are the Sub-Dean, Archdeacon Freeman, Canon Lee, and Prebendaries Tatham, Lyne, R. W. Barnes, and Harris. It is believed that none of the others will vote for Dr Temple, but how many will remain neutral is a question. At a meeting of the committee to oppose his election, it was resolved to address the Dean and Chapter of Exeter forthwith."

The Rev. Hobart Seymour writes to the *Record*: "There is some danger of a great mistake and injustice to the Chapter of Exeter by asking them to do that which by law they have no right to do, namely, to reject the recommendation of the Crown. The mistake is the supposal that in pre-Reformation times the Chapter possessed this right, and that it was a despotic Act of Henry VIII. that barred the free exercise of this right by the pains of *præmunire*. There was no such right in pre-Reformation times. Then, as now, the Chapter was obliged to elect the person recommended by the Crown. If they refused, as they sometimes did, their goods were seized, and themselves turned bodily out of the Chapter and Cathedral until they obeyed the mandate of the Crown. In my very humble, though perhaps mistaken, judgment, the wise course for the Evangelical body is to resist those sudden panics arising out of the appointments of unfitting Bishops, and those hurried and flurried proceedings, deficient in the dignity and solemnity that the occasion demands."

PROFESSOR MAX MÜLLER AND THE BUDDHISTS.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* remarks that the University of Oxford has been distinguishing itself in Germany. It was Giordano Bruno, we believe, who spoke of that Alma Mater as "the widow of literature." She may now claim the honour of being something more and better than the step-mother of philology. One of the most eminent of her adopted sons, Professor Max Müller, who has been enjoying his long vacation in Holstein, was present last month at the meeting of the German Philological Association at Kiel. Our learned Orientalist read a remarkable paper on the Buddhist doctrine of annihilation before that famous body of savans. In this lecture, remarkable alike for its profound investigation and the finished brevity and clearness of its style, the Professor discussed and controverted the popular superficial notion that the religion of the vast majority of mankind, and which, according to the testimony of a Roman Catholic bishop, had anticipated the purest moral doctrines of the Christian faith, offers its believers no more consoling and satisfying solution of the great mysteries of evil and death than the repose of Nothingness. Discerning between the doctrine of Buddha and the corruptions engrafted upon it, he shows that the Nirvana, to which every true Buddhist should aspire, was, as the founder taught, nothing more nor less than perfect renunciation and supreme resignation. It cannot be indifferent to the Christian world to learn that a religion which is still held by the largest portion of the human race is not based upon Annihilation. Mr Max Müller concluded his lecture with a touching apologue from the Buddhist Scriptures, in which the true doctrine of Nirvana renunciation and resignation is embalmed. This admirable contribution to the science of comparative theology has been translated into English, and appears in the last number of Messrs Trübner's 'Oriental and Literary Record.'

THE DALMATIAN INSURRECTION.

The *Mémorial Diplomatique*, the organ of the Austrian Government in Paris, makes the following remarks on the origin and character of the rising in Dalmatia: "There is not throughout Austria a population more sincerely devoted to the Hapsburg dynasty than the inhabitants of the Bocca di Cattaro, who, being all engaged in navigation, call themselves 'Imperial' to show how much attached they are to Austria; but those children of the sea cannot accustom themselves to the idea of serving in the ranks of the reserve, after having been always exempt from the military conscription. There is reason to regret that the Government of Vienna should have extended the levy for that corps to a district almost the entire population of which serve in the Austrian navy or merchant service. The Bocca di Cattaro is the chief nursery for seamen in Austria, which country, since the cession of Venetia especially, has every interest in assuring the recruitment of mariners as loyal as they are intrepid. Those people will no doubt shed their last drop of blood rather than allow themselves to be enrolled in the army, so that the Government will be forced to repeal the obnoxious law."

The *Record* states that Mr Gladstone has offered the Deanery of Ely to the Rev. Thomas Dale, M.A., Canon of St Paul's Cathedral.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BERWICKSHIRE.

A meeting at Earlston on Saturday last adopted Lord William Hay as the Liberal candidate for Berwickshire.

CHESTER.

A vacancy has been caused in the representation of Chester by the elevation of Earl Grosvenor to the peerage, on the death of his father, the Marquis of Westminster.

HASTINGS.

Mr James Vickers, of Templeton House, is announced as a candidate for the borough of Hastings, in the room of Mr F. North, deceased.

SOUTHWARK.

An address has been issued to the electors of Southwark by Mr Henry Labouchere, who sat in the last Parliament as one of the members for Middlesex. He states that his political opinions have undergone no change, except that he has an increased belief in the security of the ballot. Mr George Odger, the Secretary of the London Trades Council, and a candidate for Chelsea at the late general election, has been selected as the working man's candidate.

GLASGOW AND ABERDEEN UNIVERSITIES.

The nomination of candidates for the representation of the Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities took place on Tuesday at Glasgow. The candidates proposed were Mr Archibald Smith and Mr Edward Strathearn Gordon. The show of hands was in favour of the latter gentleman, and a poll being demanded, it will take place on the 15th inst.

KING'S LYNN.

Mr Richard Young, formerly M.P. for Cambridgeshire, has accepted the requisition of the Liberal working men, and on Wednesday afternoon issued an address to the electors of Lynn, in which he promises a cordial support to Mr Gladstone if returned to Parliament.

THE ARTISANS AND LABOURERS' DWELLINGS ACT.

On Tuesday evening a meeting of the Vestry of the parish of St George the Martyr, Southwark, was held at the Vestry Hall, Borough Road, presided over by Mr Collinson, for the purpose of considering, among other things, the Report of a Select Committee of the whole Vestry on the subject of the Artisans and Labourers' Dwellings Act, and the bye-laws framed under the Sanitary Act for the registration of houses occupied by members of more than one family. The subject was some time ago brought under the consideration of the Vestry in the reports of the medical officer of health for the parish. The matter was referred to a Select Committee of the whole Vestry, which met on the 19th of last month for the purpose of considering the same. That Committee now reported that they had given the matter every consideration.

Dr Bateson, the medical officer, stated that they were doing what they could to carry out these Acts already, but that to fully carry out the one respecting houses occupied by members of more than one family was almost impossible. There were over 20,000 houses in their parish of that character, and the occupants of them were continually shifting, so that in many of them in the course of a week they would find new occupants. He thought the Government had begun at the wrong end. If they wanted the people who occupied these houses to have a certain amount of room and a certain quantity of air, they ought to have commenced by erecting houses for them, and no doubt they would have soon been occupied. These Acts would, however, gradually be brought into operation, the same as others of a like character had been in the parish. The Report of the Select Committee was accordingly adopted unanimously.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

In the week that ended on Saturday, the 30th of October, 4,466 births and 3,279 deaths were registered in London and in thirteen other large towns of the United Kingdom. The annual rate of mortality was 26 per 1,000 persons living. The annual rate of mortality last week was 25 per 1,000 in London, 22 in Edinburgh, and 21 in Dublin; 23 in Bristol, 25 in Birmingham, 32 in Liverpool, 31 in Manchester, 29 in Salford, 27 in Sheffield, 24 in Bradford, 28 in Leeds, 24 in Hull, 32 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and 27 in Glasgow. In London the births of 1,077 boys and 1,102 girls, in all 2,179 children, were registered last week. In the corresponding weeks of ten years, 1859-68, the average number, corrected for increase of population, is 2,189. The deaths registered in London during the week were 1,536. It was the 43rd week of the year, and the average number of deaths for that week is, with a correction for increase of population, 1,372. The deaths in the present return exceed by 164 the estimated amount, and exceed by 60 the number recorded in the preceding week.

The *Church Herald* says that the Rev. Richard F. Clarke, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of St John's College, and the Rev. William Henry Bliss, B.C.L., Magdalen College, Vicar of North Hinksey, Oxford, have recently retired from the English Church and joined the Roman Communion.

News of the Week.

Home Notes.

Mr W. H. Gladstone, who has been acting as Third Secretary to the Premier, without salary, will be the new Lord of the Treasury, working with Mr Stansfeld in the department, and aiding him in Parliament, with the status of a Junior Lord. This is the first office which Mr W. H. Gladstone has held under the Crown, and his acceptance of it will render it necessary for him to seek re-election at Whitby.

The formal presentation of the Lord Mayor Elect (Mr Alderman Besley) to the Lord Chancellor took place on Tuesday. The Recorder, having sketched the career of that gentleman, dilated on his fitness for the office which he had been chosen to fill. The Lord Chancellor said he was commissioned to state the Queen's approval of the choice the citizens had made, and to this he added his own congratulations.

In the Court of Queen's Bench on Tuesday an application was made on behalf of William Smith, who was convicted last week of the manslaughter of his wife at Hounslow, for a criminal information against the *Times*, for having in a leading article treated of the death of the woman Smith as a murder perpetrated under the most revolting circumstances. The Court refused the motion on the ground that the writer could not have been actuated by such personal malice as to warrant the issue of a writ of criminal information.

At Marlborough-street Police-court on Tuesday an application was made on behalf of the War-Office for a search-warrant against Mr James Bertrand Payne, of Dover Street, Piccadilly, who was formerly commanding officer of the 4th Middlesex Artillery, but was dismissed from the command for insubordination. Mr Payne refused to deliver up sixty carbines and three swords belonging to the corps. Mr Tyrwhitt granted the warrant.

The Marquis of Westminster died on Sunday last at Eaton Hall, Cheshire, after an illness of a few days. The late Marquis was born in 1795, and succeeded to the title, of which he was the second holder, on the death of his father in 1845. From 1818 to 1830 he sat in the House of Commons as member for Chester, and afterwards for five years for one of the divisions of Cheshire. He was at one period Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, and Steward of the Household. In addition to his other honours he added that of K.G. and P.C. and he was the patron of twelve livings. He is succeeded in the marquise by Earl Grosvenor, M.P. for Chester, who was born in the year 1825.

In the Court of Chancery on Monday Mr George Lewis, jun., made an application on behalf of Dr Thom to the Chief Clerk of Vice-Chancellor Malins, for the expenses of the criminal prosecution against the directors of Overend, Gurney, and Co. to be paid out of the assets of the company. A sum of 5,000*l.* was suggested as necessary for the purpose, and the precedent of the Unity Joint Stock Bank prosecution was urged in support of the application. The application was adjourned to be heard before the Vice-Chancellor.

The great Convent case of *Saurin v. Star* will, it is understood, come again before the public, in the course of the present term, in the form of an application for a new trial to the Court of Queen's Bench.

Vice-Chancellor Malins on Wednesday gave judgment in the application, on the part of the proprietors of *Punch*, to restrain the publication of the new comic periodical known as *Punch and Judy*. His Honour held that Messrs Bradbury and Evans were not entitled to the injunction asked for, and dismissed the bill, but without costs.

The attempt to quash the commitment of the two men who refused to give evidence before the Beverley Election Commission has failed. The Court of Queen's Bench, before whom the appellants had been brought by writ of *habeas corpus*, decided that the Commissioners had not exceeded their powers, and the men were sent back to York Castle.

Counsel for the prisoner Hinson, who is charged with the Wood-green murder, applied on Wednesday to the Court of Queen's Bench for a rule, calling upon the printer of a local newspaper to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against him. The Judges, holding that the comments complained of were likely to create a prejudice against the prisoner on his approaching trial, granted the application.

We learn that Mr Goschen has sent Mr J. Henley, one of the Poor-Law Inspectors, to Scotland, with the view of inquiring into the practical working of the system of boarding-out pauper children in that country. Mr Henley was for some time engaged as an Assistant-Commissioner upon the inquiry into the condition of children employed in agriculture.

The Judges selected for the trial of Election Petitions during the ensuing year are Mr Justice Mellor, from the Queen's Bench; Mr Justice Byles, from the Common Pleas; and Mr Baron Bramwell, from the Exchequer.

Mr M'Lachlen, the stockbroker, charged with appropriating a large amount of valuable securities entrusted to him by executors, was again brought before Sir Robert Carden, at the Mansion House, on Wednesday. Additional evidence was given, and the prisoner was committed for trial.

A most lamentable accident to the boiler of H.M.S. *Thistle* occurred on Wednesday last, during her trial trip.

An explosion took place which resulted in the death of ten persons, and severe injuries to eight others.

The National Education Union, for securing the primary education of every child, opened its Congress on Wednesday morning, at Manchester; the Earl of Harrowby in the chair. The future meetings of the Congress will be held under the presidency of Mr Birley, M.P., the Hon. A. F. Egerton, M.P., and the Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P., respectively.

France.

Tuesday being All Souls' Day, great crowds visited the Montmartre Cemetery, and numerous crowns of immortelles were placed on the tombs of General Cavaignac and of Baudin. Order was not disturbed, and the traffic was unimpeded.

The *Constitutionnel* of Wednesday morning says: "The advices received from Compiègne respecting the Emperor's health are most satisfactory."

The *Journal de Paris* of Wednesday evening says that M. Ledru Rollin has refused the offer made to him to stand for one of the vacant electoral circumscriptions of Paris, while M. Henri Rochefort, on the other hand, has announced his readiness to contest one of the vacant seats, and, if elected, to take the oath to the Constitution. According to the *Liberté*, M. Henri Rochefort is expected in Paris shortly; and the same paper adds that the Government will leave him at perfect liberty in the steps he may take to secure his election.

The director of the foreign branch of the Ministry of Commerce, M. Ozenne, did not, as expected, announce at Wednesday's meeting at Rouen the suppression of the temporary admission of foreign cotton yarn, but stated only that the question would be considered by the Council of Ministers. With regard to the question of withdrawal from the treaties of commerce, M. Ozenne said he was not in a position to hold out any promise to the meeting, but that a Bill on the General Customs Tariff would be introduced at the beginning of the session, in order that the Legislative Body might have time to discuss the question before the 4th of February, the date when notice would have to be given in case of an intention to withdraw from the Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce.

Baron Werther, the newly-appointed Ambassador of the North German Confederation, arrived at Paris on Tuesday, and visited Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Baron Werther will shortly present his credentials to the Emperor.

Spain.

Senor Martos has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Senor Figuerola, Minister of Finance. It is believed that Marshal Serrano and General Prim will succeed in their endeavours to maintain harmony among the Unionists and the Radicals. In the event of the Duke of Genoa's election, Marshal Serrano will probably continue to be Regent until his majority. Topete will not leave the Ministry, as was reported. The Duke of Genoa has now 141 adhesions, against 65 dissents.

The Ministry, as reconstituted, presented themselves to the Cortes on Tuesday. Marshal Prim explained that the cause of the crisis had been the question of the candidates to the throne. Every effort to solve that question, had, however, proved hitherto unavailing, on account of the attitude of the Unionists. The Government would, however, remain faithful to the principles of the Revolution. Senores Rios and Ardanaz, of the Unionist party, promised to support the Government. The sittings of the Cortes then adjourned.

The *Epoca* and *Correspondencia* of Tuesday evening assert that Admiral Topete insists upon leaving the Cabinet, giving as his motive the question of candidature to the throne. Marshal Prim has declared that he will also leave the Cabinet should Admiral Topete not withdraw his resignation.

More recent advices state that Admiral Topete persists in his resignation, notwithstanding that every effort has been made to shake his resolution. It is probable that the whole Cabinet will tender their resignation, and that Marshal Prim will be entrusted by the Regent with the formation of a new Cabinet.

Prussia.

The new Prussian *Cross Gazette* of Wednesday evening says there is no foundation for the rumour current here, that Count Bismarck would shortly return to Berlin.

The same paper announces that the deputation of North Schleswigers, charged with the presentation of an address to the King of Prussia, has not been received by his Majesty, and that the address has been handed to the Minister of the Interior.

Belgium.

The King and Queen of the Belgians will leave Brussels for London on the 15th inst.

Italy.

Prince and Princess Henry of Holland and suite arrived at Brindisi on Monday, and embarked on board the Dutch steamer *Valk* for Constantinople.

Two Government engineers and a contractor have been captured by brigands in the province of Aquila.

On Sunday the King caught a severe cold, accompanied by fever, at his hunting seat at San Rossore, near Pisa. On Tuesday morning, however, a great improvement took place in the condition of his Majesty, who is expected to return to Florence very shortly.

The interview of the Emperor of Austria with King Victor Emmanuel will take place at Brindisi on the 27th

or 28th inst. The King will be accompanied by the President of the Council of Ministers.

Austria.

On Tuesday, after an engagement which lasted three hours, the troops drove back the insurgents beyond Sutvaro. Major-General Dormus advanced as far as Poberdje without meeting with any opposition.

A deputation, composed of thirty persons, from the Zuppa, afterwards waited upon the Governor of Dalmatia and offered submission on the part of the insurgents. They admitted that the new Landwehr regulations were not the cause of the insurrection, which they attributed, on the contrary, to the Serbo-Sclavonian agitation. The Poles and other fanatics had excited the people, to whom they held out hopes of foreign assistance. The deputation represent the insurgents as discouraged and divided amongst themselves.

Germany.

On Sunday evening, and early on Monday morning, severe shocks of an earthquake were felt at Frankfort and at Darmstadt, Wiesbaden, Mayence, and the neighbouring localities. On Tuesday evening severe shocks of earthquake were again felt at Frankfort, and at Darmstadt, and Gross Gerau, at which latter place many inhabitants of Darmstadt had taken refuge.

Portugal.

The Commercial Associations of Lisbon and Oporto will meet shortly to deliberate upon the abolition of the differential duties on imports.

America.

The monthly statement of the public debt is expected to show a reduction of over 7,500,000 dols. effected during October. Mr Boutwell has announced that the Government will continue the usual purchases of bonds and sales of gold during November.

The elections on Tuesday passed off quietly. The Democrats carried the elections for State Officers in New York, Mr Nelson being returned as State Secretary over General Sigel, and Mr Allen as State Comptroller over Mr Horace Greeley. The Republicans are believed to have secured a majority in the Legislature. They have carried Massachusetts, electing the State ticket with Mr Claffin as Governor by a reduced majority as compared with the last elections. They have also carried Wisconsin, electing Mr Fairchild as Governor, and the State of Minnesota, electing Mr Austin Governor. The Democrats have secured a majority in both Houses of the New Jersey Legislature. They have also carried Maryland, electing every member of the Legislature.

Canada.

The Dominion Cabinet has been reorganised as follows: Sir John Macdonald, Prime Minister; Sir George Cartier, Minister of Military Affairs; Sir Francis Hincks, Minister of Finance.

Governor Musgrave, of British Columbia, has received authority from the Home Government to co-operate with Sir John Young in the interests of the Confederation.

Japan.

The *China Mail* says: "In Japanese politics all is still. The same state of things exists, without any change. A significant feature of the times is, that the Parliament having voted for the surrender of all their estates, retainers, and revenues by the Daimios to the Mikado—receiving from him the honorary title of Chi-hanji in lieu of the old title of Daimio, and the allowance of one-tenth of their revenues, with the relief from the support of their old retainers—the majority of the Chi-hanjis have already left Yedo (the Parliamentary session having closed), taking with them their clansmen as of yore."

The Brazils.

In the Chamber of Deputies the Ministers have adopted the expedient of passing a resolution to again prolong until June 30 next the estimates of 1868-69, adding thereto the tariff and other revenue clauses of the budget in debate. Although the opposition in the Senate considers such action inexpedient and unconstitutional, it has not refused to co-operate by allowing quorums, and the resolution has become law.

The 5th October passed away without any phenomena except some augmentation of the rise and fall of the tides, and the numbers who sought refuge on the heights—about 2,000 people—from the expected destructive high tides mostly returned before night.

No further operations are reported from the seat of war in Paraguay, but preparations were going on for the campaign against the new position of Lopez, which is said to be the town of Santo Estanislao, situated on a mountain fifteen miles from the Paraguay. By some this position is thought to be only temporary, and that his real defence will be in the mountains of Caagnazu, 150 miles from the Paraguay. His provisional seat of government is at Caraguati (Santo Izedro), about forty miles east of Santo Estanislao. Expeditions had been sent to Villa Rica, Conceivo, on the Paraguay, and to the east of Caraguati, to occupy the country around, and the Comte d'Eu was accumulating supplies at Rosario, with the purpose of advancing against Santo Estanislao.

India.

The *Times of India* informs us that, the Bombay Legislative Council met at Poonah for the third reading of

the Cotton Frauds Act. The measure met with warm opposition, and its final reading was postponed for a fortnight. The Government of India have published a statement showing the causes and extent of the present financial embarrassment, and also the measures proposed for wiping off the deficit. The depositions of several of the passengers by the steamship *Carnatic* have been taken by the chief magistrate, by order of the Bombay Government, for transmission to the Board of Trade in London. An extraordinary flight of locusts—seven miles long, five miles broad, and 300 to 400 feet in depth—have visited the Mahi-Kanta, doing great mischief. Large numbers of starving Marwaris are again compelled to leave their own country, and to flock to Sind for sustenance. The whole of the Deccan has enjoyed a most abundant monsoon, and a fine rice harvest is expected.

Egypt.

The Empress Eugénie reached Luxor on the 1st inst., where her Majesty met the French and German savants who have been invited by the Khedive to be present at the inauguration of the Suez Canal.

Court and Fashion.

The Queen, with the Princess Louise, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold, attended Divine service at the parish church of Crathie on Sunday last.

The Queen, with the Princesses Louise and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, arrived at Windsor Castle, from Scotland, on Thursday morning.

The Prince of Wales arrived at Scarborough on Monday evening, where he experienced a very cordial reception, and was presented with an address from the Corporation. The town was illuminated, and great enthusiasm prevailed. His Royal Highness will shortly pay another visit to the Duc d'Aumale at Woodnorton, Evesham, where it is thought probable the Queen may be a guest at no distant period.

Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein visited the Princess of Wales on Tuesday at Marlborough House.

The Right Hon. B. Disraeli and Viscountess Beaconsfield have arrived at Grosvenor Gate from Hughenden Manor, Bucks.

The marriage of the Marquis of Lansdowne and Lady Maud Hamilton, youngest daughter of the Duke of Abercorn, and the marriage of her sister, Lady Albertha, with the Marquis of Blandford, eldest son of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, have been postponed until Monday next, out of respect to the memory of the late Earl of Derby.

Notabilia.

An Austrian baron, who was carrying the hod in exile at Galesburg, Ill., recently received a full pardon and a rich estate, just as he was about mounting the ladder with his load. He was so overjoyed that he gave 500 dollars to the Post-Office messenger who carried him the letter.

General Garibaldi is expected at Florence in the beginning of December. He wishes to appear in the Chamber of Deputies and demand an account from the Government regarding the arrest of his friends, and particularly of his son-in-law, Canzio, detained many months in prison, and afterwards set at liberty by a declaration of no grounds for accusation.

A company which has chartered an excursion ship to the Suez Canal ingeniously promises an accessory very taking to Frenchmen. A captive balloon is to be tethered at the foot of the Great Pyramid, so that the excursionists may have an opportunity of looking down upon those peaks from the heights of which, according to Napoleon's famous order of the day, "forty centuries" took a view of his army.

The *Montgomery* (Alabama) *Advertiser* says: "One day last week a novel case was tried in the Court-house at Greenville. Judge M. C. Lane brought a suit against Miss Josephine Hutton for a fee. The lady appeared in court, pleaded her own case, examined witnesses, and made a long speech to the jury. Her reason for appearing was that she did not believe an honest lawyer was to be found in the county. She said, among other things, that if an earthquake were to come, and the clouds were to fall, she believed the first thing thought of by the lawyers would be the collection of their fees, preparatory to entering upon that long journey in search of a future home, deep down in the dominions of his Satanic majesty, whither they were all slowly but surely tending."

Monogram veils are the latest wrinkle among New York fashionable young ladies. Those of fawn colour and grey are most in vogue—the monogram being embroidered in colours in the centre.

The Chamber of Deputies of Greece has just voted, without opposition, a law to sanction a project for cutting through the Isthmus of Corinth, and to regulate the conditions of the undertaking.—*Galignani's Messenger*.

The Crown Princess of Prussia has received from the Amsterdam Exhibition a diploma of honour, as an acknowledgment of the noble and successful efforts which she has made to found an association for the employment of females.

It may be remembered that a hostile meeting took place

at the beginning of August in the Bois de Vésinet, between M. Paul de Cassagnac and M. Gustave Flourens, in which the latter was wounded. The other combatant and MM. de la Garde and Ducher, his seconds, as well as MM. Arnould and de Fonvielle, who acted for the adverse party, appeared recently before the Correctional Tribunal of Versailles to answer for the offence. All the five were condemned to a fine of 100fr. each.—*Galignani's Messenger*.

"Queen Isabella," says the *Gaulois*, "has decided on going to Rome at the epoch of the Council. Her son, the Prince of the Asturias, will receive his first communion from the hands of the Pope on December 8, the day of the Immaculate Conception."

The Russian papers announce that a shock of earthquake, which lasted several seconds, took place at Sebastopol on the afternoon of the 12th ult. Tables and other articles of furniture were shaken from their places, and many people were seized with dizziness. In the centre of the city the shocks were so violent that a large number of the inhabitants left their houses and rushed with terror into the streets.

On Wednesday the interchange of the ratifications of the treaty of friendship, trade, and navigation between the King of the Belgians and the supreme King of Siam took place at the Belgian Legation, the respective plenipotentiaries being the Baron Beaulieu and Sir John Bowring.

THE OPEN SPACE QUESTION.—A meeting, presided over by Mr W. M. Torrens, M.P., was held on Tuesday, in the dining-hall of the Holborn Union Workhouse, to consider the means by which an "open space" of three acres in the Gray's-inn Road may be thrown open to the public. The "space" in question is the old burial-ground at Trinity Church, in the thoroughfare named, but beyond the boundaries of St Andrew's, Holborn, and which is now surrounded by a high wall, which shuts out all view of this comparatively large piece of land. Mr Burr, a vestryman, moved a resolution to the effect that it would be a great advantage to the people at large if the St Andrew's burial-ground in the Gray's-inn Road were thrown open to the public. The resolution was carried unanimously, and also one to co-operate with other authorities in carrying out the purpose of the meeting.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE NEW BISHOPS.—The consecration of Dr Temple to the See of Exeter will, it is expected, take place on Tuesday, December 21, being St Thomas's Day; and, if the necessary arrangements can be made in time, Lord Arthur Hervey, Bishop Designate of Bath and Wells, and the Rev. J. F. Mackarness, Bishop Designate of Oxford, will be consecrated on the same day. The ceremony will, in all probability, take place in Canterbury Cathedral. Dean Goodwin, appointed Bishop of Carlisle, will be consecrated in the province of York.

THE LATE MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER.—The remains of the late Marquis of Westminster are to be interred at Eaton, on Monday next. It is not yet known whether the obsequies will be conducted with strict privacy. The Town Council of Chester has passed an address of condolence with the Marchioness; and, as a token of its esteem of the late Marquis's public and private virtues, has preferred a wish to attend the funeral.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FICTION.—'Claudia.' A Tale. By A. L. O. E. T. Nelson and Sons.—'The Scapegoat.' By "Leo." In Two Volumes. Chapman and Hall.—'So Runs the World Away.' By Mrs A. C. Steele. In Three Volumes. Chapman and Hall.—'Julian; or, Scenes in Judea.' By William Ware. F. Warne and Co.—'The Knight's Ransom.' By L. Valentine. F. Warne and Co.—'Through the Night and Onward.' A Tale of the Times. By Walter Sweetman, B.A. In Two Volumes. Longmans.—'Martha Planborough.' A Romance. In Three Volumes. Tinsley Brothers.—'Daisy's Dream.' By the Author of 'Recommended to Mercy.' In Three Volumes. Tinsley Brothers.—'Country Courtships.' By Anne Beale. In Three Volumes. Richard Bentley.—'Mabel-dean; or, Christianity Reversed.' By Owen Gower. In Three Volumes. Longmans.—'The Garstangs of Garstang Grange.' By T. A. Trollope. In Three Volumes. Smith, Elder, and Co.

POETRY.—'The Household Treasury of English Songs.' T. Nelson.—'Eliza Cook's Poetical Works.' Complete Edition. F. Warne.—'Poems.' By B. Montgomerie Rankine. J. C. Hotten.—'Poems.' By Thornton Wells. Longmans.

JUVENILE BOOKS.—'Alice Leighton,' 'Carry's Rose,' 'Hugh Wellwood's Success.' By Mrs George Cupples. T. Nelson and Sons.—'A Voyage Round the World,' 'Old Jack,' and 'My First Voyage to Southern Seas.' By W. H. G. Kingston. T. Nelson and Sons.—'Sidney Stuart.' By Catherine D. Bell. F. Warne and Co.—'Claud Spencer.' By Mrs F. Marshall Ward. Bemrose and Sons.

MISCELLANEOUS.—'Analysis of the English Language.' By J. Plant Fleming, M.A., D.C.L. Longmans.—'Who were the First Weavers?' T. Nelson and Sons.—'The Seven Churches of Asia: their History, and past and present Condition.' T. Nelson and Sons.—'Traces of History in the Names of Places.' By Flavell Edmunds. Longmans.—'Handy Book for Verifying Dates.' By J. J. Bond. Bell and Daldy.—'Notes on Burgundy.' By C. R. Weld. Longmans.—'Places and People.' Studies from Life. By J. C. Parkinson. Tinsley Brothers.—'Strong and Free; or, First Steps towards Social Science.' Longmans.—'An Elementary Course of Mechanics.' By Richard Wormell, M.A., B.S.C. Groombridge and Sons.—'From Liverpool to St Louis.' By the Rev. Newman Hall. G. Routledge.—'Horses and Stables.' By Col. F. Fitzwygram. Longmans.—'The Universe.' By F. A. Pouchet, M.D., &c. &c. Translated and Illustrated. Blackie and Son.—'The Circle of the Year; or, Studies of Nature and Pictures of Seasons.' Edited by W. H. Davenport Adams. W. P. Nimmo, Edinburgh.—'The Cape and its People.' Essays related by Professor Noble. J. C. Juta, Cape Town.—'Satires, Epistles, and Art of Poetry of Horace.' Translated by Professor John Conington, M.A. Bell and Daldy.—'The Theory of the Arts in Relation to Nature, Civilisation, and Man.' By George Harris, F.S.A. Trubner and Co.

MONETARY REVIEW.

In the early part of the week the Stock Markets were dull and heavy, chiefly in consequence of the withdrawal of gold from the Bank of England, and the announcement of the Portuguese Loan. Both on Tuesday and Wednesday Consols showed a fractional decline, and on Thursday, when it was officially stated that the Bank directors had raised the official minimum from 2½ per cent., to which it was reduced on the 18th of August, to 3 per cent., a further downward tendency was apparent. Foreign Stocks have been heavy, from the absence of business caused by the apprehension that the increased value of money will lead to realisations. The decline has extended to Russian, Turkish, Spanish, Italian, and Mexican Bonds. British Railway Stocks have also been affected by the altered aspect of the Money Market, though the variations have not been important. In American Securities, and especially the Bonds, prices again show strength on a fall in the gold premium at New York. In Colonial Government Securities business has been quiet, and prices are mostly steady. In Bank Shares the only recent movement has been a fall in Imperial Ottoman. Consols are now at 93½ to 93¾ for money and the present account, and 93¼ for the December settlement; the New and Reduced Three per Cents. are 91½ to 91¾; Exchequer Bills are at 1s. to 6s. prem. for March, and 7s. to 11s. prem. for June; and Bank Stock, 237 to 239.

The prospectus of the New Portuguese Loan has been issued by Messrs Stern Brothers. The loan is for 12,000,000*l.* at the price of 32½ for every 100*l.* stock. The bonds are to be in amounts of 100*l.* and 500*l.*, with coupons due on the 1st of January and the 1st of July, payable at the Portuguese Financial Commission in London. The stock will bear interest from the 1st of July last, and it is announced that the Cortes have stipulated it shall be exempt from taxes of every kind. Subscribers are to pay 5 per cent. on application, and the remainder by instalments up to the 31st of May next.

The numbers are published of 429 bonds, representing 37,840*l.*, of the Sardinian Five per Cent. Loan of 1851, which were cancelled and deposited at the Bank of England on the 2nd inst.

The eighth drawing of the Viceroy of Egypt's Mortgage Loan is to take place on the 18th inst.

The official liquidators of the Albert Assurance Company have convened a meeting of the representative policyholders' committees for Monday next, when a scheme will be submitted for consideration, the object of which is to effect a considerable reduction of the company's liabilities.

The London, Asiatic, and American Company (Limited), as agents in London of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, are informed by telegram that that railroad company have declared a semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent.

The directors of the City Offices Company (Limited) state in their report that the success of the policy recommended at the last meeting, to relieve the company from its various responsibilities, has been complete. The debentures for 300,000*l.*, which fell due on the 1st of July, were punctually provided for; the loan of 40,000*l.* borrowed on the security of the Lombard Street property has been paid off, and the outstanding debts have been all paid. Owing to the auditing of the accounts having occupied a much longer time than was anticipated, the extraordinary general meeting of the Company will be held on the 11th inst., instead of the 4th.

At the Bank on Tuesday about 100,000 sovereigns were withdrawn for Egypt, partly, it is understood, to pay for cotton, and partly to meet the requirements of the multitude of visitors who are expected to attend the opening of the Suez Canal.

At a meeting on Monday of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, the directors resolved that a dividend of 10s. per share, free of income tax, for the quarter ending the 31st October, be declared, payable on the 15th inst.

A special meeting of the General Steam Navigation Company is convened for the 23rd inst., to elect a director in the room of Admiral J. R. Carnac, deceased.

The accounts of the official liquidators of the Birmingham Banking Company were passed on Thursday in the Rolls Chambers. The winding up is now nearly completed. All the creditors have been paid in full.

On Thursday an application was made at the Chambers of Vice-Chancellor James on behalf of a policy-holder for leave to inspect the deed of settlement of the Kent Mutual Assurance Company, amalgamated with the Albert. It was opposed on the part of the official liquidator, and refused by the Chief Clerk, who dismissed the application with costs.

The case for the prosecution of the directors in Barned's Banking Company (Limited) was commenced on Thursday at the Mansion-house. As, however, only one of the defendants was enabled to appear, the Lord Mayor, having heard the opening statement of Mr Lewis, suggested that the taking of evidence should be deferred until Friday next. Mr L. B. Mozley, who attended, was then liberated on bail, himself in 2,000*l.* and one surety in a like amount.

It is officially announced that the directors of the Brighton Railway have determined upon carrying out a revised and reduced scale of fares upon their metropolitan system, from the 1st January next. Increased facilities will at the same time be granted to the holders of season tickets.

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Great Success of the new Drama, by Dion Boucicault and Henry J. Byron, entitled **LOST AT SEA: A LONDON STORY**.
On Monday and during the week, at Seven, **TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING**. Messrs Ashley, C. H. Stephenson; Miss Maria and Nelly Harris. At a Quarter to Eight **LOST AT SEA: A LONDON STORY**. Messrs Arthur Sterling, G. Belmore, Atkins, Beveridge, C. H. Stephenson, Romer, C. L. Smith; Miss Rose Leclercq, Miss Eliza Johnstone, Miss Lennox Grey, Mrs Leigh Murray, &c., and **DOMESTIC ECONOMY**. Mr G. Belmore.

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FOURTH WEEK.

Operetta, Comedy, and Ballet.
EVERY EVENING, at Seven, Offenbach's, **TREASURE TROVE**. Misses Susan Pyne, Everard, Lovell, and Mr Crellin. At Eight, **SHE STOOFS TO CONQUER**. Misses Herbert, Henrade, Larkin, and Sallie Turner; Messrs Mark Smith, Barton Hill, J. G. Shore, A. W. Young, Gaston Murray, and Lionel Brough. Scenery by Griev, Loyds, and O'Connor. At 10.45, new Ballet, **THE MAGIC WALTZ**, with Gospoda Ribet, the Russian danseuse.

Orchestra stalls, 7s.; stalls (bonnets allowed) 5s.; dress circle, 5s.; family circle, 2s. 6d.; amphitheatre, 1s. Box Office, 10 till 5. Seats at Mitchell's, and all Libraries.—Open at Half-past Six.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL

WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES BY BRITISH AND FOREIGN ARTISTS IS NOW OPEN AT THE FRENCH GALLERY, 126 Pall-mall, from Half-past Ten till Five o'clock. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.

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